

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 2417, THE FISCAL YEAR 2004 INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great dismay that I rise to oppose H.R. 2417, the Fiscal Year 2004 Intelligence Authorization Report.

The Republican Leadership inserted a controversial provision in the FY04 Intelligence Authorization Report that will expand the already far-reaching USA Patriot Act, threatening to further erode our cherished civil liberties. This provision gives the FBI power to demand financial and other records, without a judge's approval, from post offices, real estate agents, car dealers, travel agents, pawnbrokers and many other businesses. This provision was included with little or no public debate, including no consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, which is the committee of jurisdiction. It came as a surprise to most Members of this body.

It is of great concern that the Republican Leadership, along with the Administration and Attorney General Ashcroft, would seek to include such a non-germane, controversial provision into what should otherwise be a non-partisan bill. Furthermore, the Republican Leadership, in the Senate defeated an attempt to "sunset" this provision when they considered it. It is clear the Republican Leadership and the Administration would rather expand on the USA Patriot Act through deception and secrecy than debate such provisions in an open forum. The freedoms and civil liberties of the American people are too important to allow such an irresponsible, abusive power play by the Majority.

The importance of our intelligence community has grown significantly in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks and the subsequent, continuing campaign against terrorism. The FY04 Intelligence Authorization Report includes a number of positive, beneficial provisions designed to improve our counterintelligence capabilities, strengthen our ability to share information between the federal government, local and state officials, and provide for our intelligence officers and their families. It is unfortunate that such a controversial provision had to be included.

MATT KENSETH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matt Kenseth, a native of Cambridge, Wisconsin, for clinching the NASCAR

Winston Cup Championship after placing fourth at the Pop Secret 400 at North Carolina Speedway on November 9, 2003.

Matt began working on his father's racecar when he was thirteen years old, and then he got the chance to start racing at the young age of sixteen. As a sign of his early talent for the sport, Matt was racing competitively by the age of nineteen. He moved up quickly to the ultra-competitive Wisconsin Late Model ranks, and he became the youngest winner ever in ARTGO Challenge Series history.

After driving the American Speed Association's ACDelco Challenge Series, Matt received a call from Robbie Reiser to drive his Busch Series car. In the NASCAR Busch Grand National Series, Matt excelled in his first full year by finishing second in the points battle. As a tribute to his success, he was called to substitute for Bill Elliott in the elite NASCAR Winston Cup Series at Dover Downs in September of 1998. This was his first start against the biggest names and greatest stock car drivers around, and Matt finished an impressive sixth place. The motorsports world certainly took notice of Matt in 2000, when he took the Winston Cup scene by storm winning the Raybestos Rookie of the Year Award.

This year, in his fourth season in NASCAR's top stock car series, Matt's commitment and consistency paid off because with one win, eleven top-five finishes, and twenty-five top ten finishes, he was able to take the Winston Cup title. Matt's achievements certainly have brought out the community pride and hometown spirit in Cambridge and across Wisconsin. He is a hero to countless young aspiring drivers, and he has shown why with his dedication through this long and challenging season. This December, he and his team will deservedly sit at head of the head table at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor Cambridge Native Matt Kenseth for his accomplished racing career and his recent NASCAR Winston Cup Championship title.

INTRODUCTION—OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL POLICY CREATION ACT OF 2003

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to introduce an important piece of conservation legislation, the Office of Ocean and Coastal Policy Creation Act of 2003. This bill establishes in the Executive Office of the President, an Office of Ocean and Coastal Policy. I believe this Office will serve as a valuable complement to the environmental offices and agencies that currently exist, and will provide a unique perspective on the direction we ought to be moving in with regard to comprehensive ocean policy.

An issue to which I have devoted a great deal of time and one that I feel is very impor-

tant is the protection of the diverse range of fish stocks that inhabit our world's oceans, many of which are very close to disappearing forever. Given the recent release of two studies essentially stating that what I have been talking about is likely to happen, I am more convinced than ever that we need to take aggressive action immediately. Many of our oceans' fish stocks are now reportedly 90 percent depleted, meaning only 10 percent of the stocks that once existed remain. And many of these stocks are in grave danger of extinction if we proceed down the same path we are on now—that is, continue to study these stocks and do little to mitigate the damage that has already been done.

One of these two studies recently published was conducted by Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Canada, stating that the global ocean has lost over 90 percent of its large predatory fishes, such as tuna, swordfish and marlin. I have long known that the use of pelagic longline gear is one of the most, if not the most destructive, indiscriminate way to fish. A direct result of the use of this gear type, starting in the early 1960s, has provided for the almost complete disappearance of white marlin. Though not the target species of longline gear, marlin are a bycatch species, meaning that this gear type catches whatever eats the bait, and as the lines are left in the water overnight, any fish that bites onto a hook is more likely than not dead by the time the lines are pulled in, killing not only the target species, which is primarily swordfish, but also marlin or turtles or sharks or even small whales that happen to take the bait.

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, created from my Oceans Act of 2000, has its own report forthcoming on the status of our oceans, it will be interesting to see what conclusions they put forward.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, the agency tasked with the protection of these species has failed to do so. The United States is a world leader on so many important and complex issues; it is hard to understand why the issue of fisheries management, and enforcement of the regulations currently in place both domestically and internationally, seems impossible to accomplish.

We need to take immediate aggressive steps to prevent the disappearance of these fish species, before it's too late. These studies should be a wake-up call that the process through which our world's fisheries is managed is broken and needs to be fixed.

This is an issue that resonates with anyone who has ever been to the beach in states like New Jersey, or watched a television program involving the deep blue sea. And given that 50 percent of the population of the United States lives within 100 miles of a coast, there are many who are personally affected by this issue. We have a unique opportunity to do something amazing and I think we owe it these wonderful resources that are our oceans to do all we can to bring them back to a healthy and sustainable level, for future generations. I look forward to working with this

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

unique Office on Ocean Policy to preserve these magnificent resources.

HONORING THE ST. LOUIS GATEWAY CLASSIC SPORTS FOUNDATION

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation for its commitment to providing academically average youth in St. Louis with the opportunity to attain a valuable college education. Since 1998, the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation has striven to even the educational playing field by giving generously to hard-working students.

The Foundation is sending a clear, unmistakable message to urban youth that someone does care about them by believing in them and financially supporting their goals of attaining a valuable college degree.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation today before Congress. The Foundation was recently honored in an article published in the Baltimore Sun. I would like to share this article with my colleagues which further details its dedication to providing a vital contribution to our youth by helping to produce an educated society.

[From the Baltimore Sun, Nov. 9, 2003]

BLACK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HELPS "PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE"; MO. FOUNDATION REWARDS THE ACADEMICALLY AVERAGE

(By Mike Bowler)

Don't even dare dream about college, a guidance counselor warned Leonard Woodson. With your mediocre academic record, you'll be lucky to survive high school.

The counselor was wrong. It took Woodson an extra semester, but next month he'll graduate from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., with a B average—and no college debt. All his costs were covered by a St. Louis foundation that rewards academically average students in financial need.

"It took me two hours to do what my fellow students could do in an hour, but I learned to survive in the world," says Woodson, 22. Unable to keep up taking notes, he recorded lectures and played them back in his dorm room.

Woodson is one of about 50 graduates of St. Louis-area high schools who have received full scholarships to historically black colleges and universities since 1998. The foundation raises the money, in part, by sponsoring an annual football "classic" between black college teams, devoting the proceeds to scholarships and other charities.

"Average kids don't get a chance because everybody gives to the cream of the crop," says Earl Wilson Jr., a retired IBM executive who established the foundation a decade ago. "It's our way of giving back to the community."

Wilson, 71, began his IBM career as one of the company's first black salesmen. He says he understands students in the middle. "Myself and many of my colleagues were average students or worse," he says. "People at the extremes get help. People in the middle don't."

Lawrence A. Davis Jr., chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, whose Golden Lions play in the annual fall classic,

agrees. "The world is run by average people," he says. "We reward people who can run fast, jump high and throw balls through holes. The least we can do is help those who might not be academic stars but who are willing to work hard."

"It's the trickle-up theory," says Sylvester Brown Jr., a columnist for the St. Louis PostDispatch. Brown defends Wilson against charges from another St. Louis writer that he's "creating dumbness" by so generously supporting less-than-stellar scholars.

"I'd much rather see Earl spend \$10,000 on one scholarship than give \$1,000 scholarships to 10 students," says Brown. "What he's saying by doing it this way is that we have enough faith in you to support you for four years. You have no financial worries. All you have to do is focus on being great."

The foundation distributes application forms to high school guidance counselors, and uses radio and print advertising to get the word out. Winners are chosen by a committee of educators and others who review the applications and interview applicants. "I stay completely out of the selection process," says Wilson. Sixteen recipients are currently attending college through the program.

Since the foundation began giving scholarships 5 years ago, the champion recipient is Dedree Smart, 23, who went to Howard University in Washington. "I have been so blessed," she says. "There's no way I could have afforded Howard. I didn't have to worry about anything financially, so I could concentrate on my grades. I went from a low B average in high school to graduating magna cum laude."

Smart earned her degree last year and is back in Missouri, working as special events coordinator for the State's public university system. "I am so elated, so grateful and so proud of my baby," says her mother, Delores Smart.

Wilson says the foundation carefully monitors the scholarship program. "The ones who finish college almost always get better grades" than they did in high school, he says.

"These are the late bloomers," says Irving Clay, 78, a former city alderman who sits on the foundation's board. "I and Earl, we grew up in tenements about 10 blocks from here. We all know what it's like to struggle. We know late bloomers."

But the scholarship program has had its failures and setbacks. About 40 percent of recipients have washed out, and since Smart's graduation, the foundation has dropped Howard and Virginia's Hampton University because of their high, private-college tuition.

Then, too, some scholarship recipients "haven't so much as said thank you," Wilson says. "That's a real disappointment." He expects them to send him an invitation when they graduate, and he wants all recipients—and their parents—to sell tickets to the annual classic.

In addition to the football game, which Wilson estimates has generated \$3.5 million in 10 years, the foundation raises money through charity golf and high school basketball events. Last year, it opened a \$2.8 million sports complex near downtown St. Louis that includes a computer laboratory for after-school tutoring and a "Walk of Fame" featuring prominent local African-Americans.

About 20 percent of foundation revenue comes from corporate sponsors such as Anheuser-Busch Inc., whose brand name Budweiser is attached to the football game.

"We raise 80 percent ourselves," Wilson says. "That's extremely high for a foundation like this. We are all about self-help. We don't want anyone interfering with our independence."

That attitude has rankled some in the St. Louis business community, says Brown, the newspaper columnist.

"Earl doesn't go begging in the business community, and that rubs some people the wrong way. He says [racial] integration is a wonderful thing, but we have to take care of our own. That's his integrity. Every year, he beats his head against the wall trying to fill the [Edward Jones] dome, every year he doesn't do it, and every year he smiles and says we'll do it next year."

St. Louis' only historically black institution, Harris-Stowe State College, doesn't have a football program, so the Gateway Classic turns to regional schools for the annual competition. In recent years, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, about seven hours away by car, has become a permanent contestant, its opponents rotating among Kentucky State University and others. The Classic weekend features band competitions, street parties and lunches with African-American sports figures.

"It's all generated by Earl," says Julius Dix, 74, a retired St. Louis school administrator who sits on the selection committee. "He's a born salesman. He could sell you anything."

Davis, the UAPB chancellor, says the annual event is "really great for our university. We bring in hundreds for the game. It's great visibility for us and our students. It's like a second homecoming."

Several Gateway scholarship students have enrolled at Pine Bluff, including two with the title Miss Gateway Classic. These are young women who prevail in a pageant after their junior year in high school and preside as Miss Gateway Classic as seniors, making appearances around St. Louis at foundation-sponsored events.

The pageant is partly a beauty contest [with evening gowns but not bathing suits] and partly a contest of brains and poise, says Janell Wallace, the 2002 winner, who is attending Pine Bluff on a \$40,000 Gateway Classic scholarship.

"I had to write an essay and answer questions on current events. I had to learn etiquette and how to walk and speak publicly and keep calm. That's helped a lot here," she says.

For Wallace, 18, who had never been away from St. Louis for more than two weeks, college has been "awesome and at times scary," she says. "Everything seems a lot bigger. Even the bugs are bigger. I never killed bugs; that's what you have a daddy for."

But classes at UAPB are smaller, she says, than they were at Hazelwood Central High. In the first couple of months of school she has become active in student government. She plays softball, and she has joined the modeling squad, a group that puts on fashion shows.

"There were a couple of times I wanted to give up and go home," she says. "But I'm beginning to feel complete now. I never felt that way in high school."

THANKS DIANA "TOODLES" HAUF

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today my colleagues Mr. POMBO, Mr. OSE, and Mr. MATSUI and I wish to express warm thanks, congratulations, and best wishes to Diana "Toodles" Hauf upon her retirement as Executive Services Director and Concierge for United Airlines, at the Sacramento International Airport. With an always helpful and

pleasant demeanor, Toodles went above and beyond, ensuring the utmost in customer service for those passengers so fortunate to be assisted by her.

Toodles began her 34-year career with United Airlines in Buffalo, New York, on April 28, 1969, where she began as the Station Manager Secretary. In a few short years, Toodles was given the opportunity to relocate to Sacramento, California to assist in the opening of the Red Carpet Club where she continued to serve until it closed ten years later. In 1984, Toodles was named Executive Services Director for Premium Travelers. Noted for her outstanding organization and leadership, Toodles has provided exemplary service to numerous Federal and State Representatives, State and Local Officials and Dignitaries. In addition to these responsibilities, Toodles directed the advance travel preparations for Former Governor Deukmejian, Former Governor Wilson, and Former Governor Davis. Toodles continued to facilitate superior customer service as the Executive Services Director and as a Concierge until her retirement.

Throughout her outstanding career with United Airlines, Toodles has received numerous accolades for exceptional service. Most notable, in 1988, she received the Airport Services Award, the Most Valuable Players Exemplary Service Award, and the Regional Award. In 1997, her hard work and dedication were again recognized with the Division Award. Furthermore, in addition to the above mentioned acknowledgements, Toodles received two gold medal medallions for safety and customer service.

Although Toodles' tenure with United Airlines has come to a close, her professional endeavors will continue to thrive as she embarks on a new career with Lyon Realtors in Roseville, California. We are certain that the talents and skills that allowed her to excel while at United Airlines will serve her just as well in her new career.

Toodles vivacious and dynamic personality will truly be missed. We thank Diana "Toodles" Hauf for her outstanding service and wish her well in the future.

HONORING DOC STEWART

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to Doc Stewart, one of the treasures of Eastern New Mexico. Considering all that Doc has done for Clovis and the surrounding communities, how very appropriate it is that November 21, 2003, has been designated "Doc Stewart Day." I salute Doc with great honor and respect.

It would be very difficult to mention all that Doc Stewart has done to further the success of Clovis and the smaller communities that depend on the services this eastside hub provides. In addition to the vital importance of such as the excellent public schools, the business community and the agriculture industry, of great significance is Cannon Air Force Base. Doc has worked tirelessly for many,

many years to ensure the continuation of this military presence on the eastside of New Mexico. In addition, he has always been extremely aware of how critical a congenial and productive relationship is between the air base personnel and the local residents. Doc's business acumen, keen insight, delightful personality and affable manner always served the community well in this effort.

Doc knew early on that Cannon was a key player in the economic health of Clovis. His exceptional efforts as a member of the Committee of Fifty have clearly demonstrated Doc's sincere interest and concern for the betterment of his fellow residents. Even though managing his own successful business required much of his time, he always made himself available to be involved in activities that were critical in retaining the presence of Cannon Air Force Base, whether those be local, state or national.

Doc Stewart is an outstanding member of his community and our state. Not only has he been dedicated to the efforts of the Committee of Fifty, his additional involvement in community service has been invaluable. I invite my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes for a job well done and continued success in all Doc's future endeavors.

HONORING GUY D. BRIGGS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor one of General Motors Corporation's (GM) finest, Mr. Guy D. Briggs, who is retiring as GM's Vice President of Manufacturing after 43 years of distinguished service on December 31, 2003. To recognize his accomplishments, Guy will be honored during a plant wide celebration to be held in his honor at the Truck and Bus Plant located in Flint, Michigan on December 1, 2003.

Guy D. Briggs received a bachelor's degree in economics and an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1960 and 1961, respectively. Upon graduating he hired in at General Motors Corporation (GM) as a college graduate in training, and was assigned to the Chevrolet Manufacturing Plant located in Flint, Michigan. While working at the Chevrolet Plant, Guy held several supervisory positions. In 1969 he was selected for the Chevrolet Executive Development Training program. Once he completed the program he returned to his plant as the superintendent of manufacturing. In 1973 GM assigned Guy to the former Chevrolet Parts Plant, located in Saginaw, Michigan to assume the role of general superintendent of production, and a year later he transferred to the Saginaw Manufacturing Plant holding the same position. In September of 1975, Guy was appointed to the position of superintendent of production at the Saginaw Grey Iron Casting Plant, a position he maintained until 1976 when he was promoted to manager of the Chevrolet's Pressed Metal Plant located in Parma, Ohio. After his stint away from home, Guy returned to Flint, Michigan in 1978 to become manager of the Chevrolet Engine Plant and to complete the Dartmouth College Executive Development Program, which subsequently led to his promotion in May of 1983

to regional manufacturing manager, and then to acting general manufacturing manager for Chevrolet. In February of 1984, he became the manufacturing manager at the former Chevrolet-Pontiac-GM of Canada Group. From 1985 to 1991, he was vice president in charge of manufacturing operations for GM's Saturn Corp. subsidiary. In 1991, Guy was elected vice president of GM and appointed group director of operations for the truck group. In 1996 he was named vice president and general manager of the GM truck group until 2001 when he became vice president and general manager of vehicle manufacturing. Effective May 1, 2003 Guy was appointed GM vice president of manufacturing, his new role will allow him to continue to work with the manufacturing leadership team to provide support during the 2004 model-year product launches and the 2003 Labor negotiations. Guy is currently the Chairman of the board for the Oakland County (Michigan) Traffic Improvement Assoc., and a member of the Bishop International Airport Authority board of directors, Executive Board member for the Detroit Area Council of Boy Scouts and GM's key executive for the University of Wisconsin.

Guy Briggs has spent his entire career ensuring that GM remains the best in the world. His loyalty to GM is evident by the number of moves he and his family have made. Aside from being an automotive enthusiast, Guy is a humble family man. He is a devoted husband to his lovely wife Karen and a devoted father to his five children. During his tenure Guy has earned the respect of his Company and its employees. He has a strong love for the Automotive Industry and Flint, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my constituent and my dear friend, Guy Briggs, on his retirement, and wishing him and his family the best in future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF L. JOEL MARTINEZ

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of L. Joel Martinez, a nationally known AIDS activist who died Wednesday, November 12, 2003. Mr. Martinez was the founding director of the Center for AIDS, a Houston-based clearinghouse for treatment and research information. The center was founded in 1995 to address the lack of treatment and research information available to the public.

Joel Martinez had a profound effect on the way pharmaceutical companies developed their drugs and the way they looked at issues relating to people with HIV and AIDS. He met with companies to help change the guidelines for clinical trials and encouraged them to do research and testing in Houston. He urged companies to test drugs not just on gay, white males, but also on minorities, women and children.

He was an excellent and articulate spokesperson for people with HIV and AIDS and a true leader in treatment advocacy issues. Mr. Martinez was a community representative for amFAR and the AIDS Clinical Trials Group.

He also was a voting member of a U.S. Food and Drug Administration advisory committee that influenced the way the agency reviews drugs during the approval process.

Most recently, he was involved in the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition, a national coalition of activists working to end HIV and AIDS by advancing research.

Mr. Martinez was born in Harlingen, Texas in 1953 to Luis and Teresa Martinez. He was salutatorian of the class of 1970 at Brownsville High School. A Rice University graduate, he earned a law degree from the Columbia University School of Law in New York in 1977.

He was an associate at Vinson & Elkins for six years before going into private practice in 1983. He re-evaluated his life after he was diagnosed with HIV in 1987. In the early 1990s, the focus of public information on HIV and AIDS was on prevention and not on treatment and research. Mr. Martinez set about to improve public information by making numerous presentations on HIV and AIDS and by writing many articles in English and Spanish on research and treatment of the disease. His significant influence on HIV and AIDS research and treatment helped so many people affected by the disease.

I know my colleagues join me in honoring Joel Martinez for his exceptional life and passionate activism. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends especially to Vann Vaughan, his life partner of twenty-two years, his mother Teresa, his sisters Rebecca and Zoe, and his brother Harry. Joel Martinez was a great American who fought tirelessly for those in need. His important work must continue until a cure for HIV and AIDS is found.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIR-
GIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to create the position of Chief Financial Officer for the Government of the Virgin Islands. It is my hope and intention that by temporarily placing the reins of fiscal management of the Virgin Islands government outside of the political arena we will be able to end years of crisis management and place the islands on sound financial footing for the long term.

Mr. Speaker, my beloved community, has been plagued over the years and several administrations, by one economic or fiscal crisis after another. If allowed to continue or recur, they have the potential of forcing us into total fiscal collapse.

The factors which have caused these crises are numerous and include among other things: the decline in our tourism sector due to the demographic shift from cities of the Eastern Seaboard to areas in the West and Midwest; being hit by as many as 6 catastrophic hurricanes since 1989; and the fact that the territory's geography mandates a large government workforce and necessitates the replication of many basic services.

When the current administration of Governor Charles W. Turnbull took office in January of 1999, the territory was in a fiscal state of enormous and alarming proportions.

While Governor Turnbull is to be commended for his response to that crisis and the succeeding ones he has faced, because of the special and unique burdens we face, history informs that the necessary political resolve to put measures in place to address these problems, some of which will call for public sacrifice, is best found and sustained outside of the political process.

It is for this reason that I am introducing the Virgin Islands CFO Act today. The CFO will be empowered to oversee and approve all spending of the government of the Virgin Islands and be authorized by law to disapprove items of spending which would send the government into financial deficit. The CFO position would sunset after five years and while he or she would be appointed by the Governor of the Virgin Islands from a list of names selected by a search commission, and confirmed by the Legislature, he or she will not be an "at-will" employee of the government and could only be removed for cause.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an easy bill for me to introduce, but it is a necessary one at this time. It is an action that I feel is in the best interest of all of my constituents and the responsible course of action for me to take. I ask for my colleagues support.

CONGRATULATING EDWARD
ROBINSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Mr. Edward Robinson on his retirement from The Community Hospital in Munster Indiana, where he served as the Hospital Administrator for 37 years. Mr. Robinson has been a substantial fixture of the health care community in Northwest Indiana and he will be greatly missed.

Ed Robinson attended the University of Pittsburgh after receiving a highly competitive four-year scholarship from the American Legion. After the completion of his undergraduate college degree he was designated as a Distinguished Military Graduate by the United States Air Force in 1950, when he received his commission.

With his commission, Ed served as a Captain in the United States Air Force for three years and was stationed in Korea with the Fifth Air Force and was also a staff officer for the personnel at the headquarters of the Eighth Air Force, Strategic Air Command.

Knowledge has always been something valued by Ed. He holds a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from the Graduate School of Public Health of the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the same institution. Mr. Robinson was awarded on Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Calumet College in May 1997.

Ed's career as a health care professional has been multifaceted and world-renowned. He has been published in numerous professional journals and received first prize in the "Hospital Topics" editorial National-wide competition for his thesis on "Nursing Staffing Pattern in an Intensive Care Unit." Ed is also a

Fellow of the Royal Society of Health in London, England. As a member of the program committee of the Atlantic Economic Conference, an international group, he has presented papers in Paris, Rome, Puerto Rico, Scotland, and Munich on various hospital economic topics. He has been a presenter at numerous seminars with John Goodman and Associates regarding Hospital Based Heart Centers.

Nobly, Ed has committed a life of service to Northwest Indiana through his work in the health care community. He has received the Meritorious Service Award from the Munster Board of Trustees and a Special Award for Outstanding Leadership from the Munster Medical Research Foundation. He is also a founding member of the Board of Directors of Community Foundation, Inc. and the President of the Board of Directors of Hospice of the Calumet Area. He has also shared his time with Board of the Northwest Indiana Symphony, as well as serving as Co-Chairman of the Community Veterans Memorial Park in Munster.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Robinson will be greatly missed at The Community Hospital by all of those who have served with this caring and compassionate man. At this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Robinson for an outstanding career, not only in health care, but also in service to his community. Ed's leadership and passion for his career are to be commended, and his professional absence from the Northwest Indiana community will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM (BILL)
LYONS, JR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Secretary William (Bill) Edward James Lyons, the V for his service to our Nation and to his community. Bill was born in Modesto, California to William, the IV, and Mary Lyons on July 4, 1950. He attended school at Modesto High School in Modesto, California. Bill then attended college at California State University, Chico where he received his bachelor's degree and secondary teaching credential.

Throughout his career Bill has become a well-respected leader in the field of agriculture and is consistently sought out for his expertise. Appointed by Governor Gray Davis and confirmed by the California State Senate, Bill Lyons, Jr. served as the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, from January 1999 to November 2003. As a rancher and businessman, Bill brought nearly three decades of leadership and business expertise to the department. As Secretary, Bill was responsible for a Department of 2,300 employees, and a budget of \$250 million. Secretary Lyons' key responsibilities included policy development and implementation of programs that support California's \$27 billion agricultural industry. He was responsible and successful in implementing the marketing campaign of the "Buy California" program in the state. While Secretary, Bill served as president

of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture, chair of the Specialty Crop Task Force for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and chairman of the Agricultural Worktable for the U.S.-Mexico Border Governors' Conference.

In California's great Central Valley, the Lyons family has been engaged in production agriculture for more than 75 years. Secretary Lyons managed the 6,000-acre ranch located in the Modesto area from 1976 to 1999. The ranch produces a number of crop and livestock commodities.

Bill currently serves as a member of the California Water Commission and on the Board of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. From 1993 to 1999, Bill served as chairman of the USDA's Farm Service Agency state committee. Bill was also appointed by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to serve from 1996 to 1998 as founding director of the East Stanislaus and Toulmne County USDA Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee, and the Stanislaus/San Joaquin Counties' Cattlemen's Association.

Bill is a widely respected member of his community and has greatly contributed to his state and nation. The USDA has honored Secretary Lyons on three occasions: in 1998 with a certificate of appreciation; in 1997 with an award for excellence; and in 1996 with a national environmental award. In 1995, the California Farm Bureau Federation recognized him with a service award. The United States Jaycees named him the Outstanding Young Man of America in 1984 and both the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County has awarded him with various service commendations. In addition, California State University at Chico awarded Bill in 2000 with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

Secretary Lyons' illustrious career also includes various elected office positions in Stanislaus County such as: Member of the Central Catholic High School Board of Directors, Chairman, Doctors Medical Center, and Director, Modesto Irrigation District. Bill also worked as a Religion teacher at Saint Stanislaus elementary school, in Modesto California.

Throughout his lifetime, Secretary Lyons has demonstrated a deep commitment to community service. Throughout the years, he has worked with countless community organizations such as the Salvation Army, United Way, American Cancer Society, the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, and Camp Sylvester, a local youth camp. Additionally, he has coached sports teams for nearly two decades.

It is my pleasure to join the Stanislaus community in recognizing Secretary Bill Lyons, Jr. for his commitment to his community, state and nation. I have personally known the Lyons family for over two decades. Bill Lyons, Jr. and the entire Lyons family have a passion for California agriculture and for the values of hard work and community service in the San Joaquin Valley. Bill is a trusted and dear friend. I look forward to our continued friendship and to his wise counsel, and know that Bill's future path will continue to benefit California agriculture and all of us in the San Joaquin Valley. It is a pleasure to represent Bill and the entire Lyons family in the 18th Congressional District of California.

FLAWED ELECTIONS IN THE CAUCASUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of session, I would like to take note as Helsinki Commission Chairman of a very disturbing trend in the Caucasus republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. At this very moment, thousands of Georgians are engaging in a campaign of civil disobedience in the wake of the November 2 parliamentary elections. Georgian and international monitors registered large-scale falsification and ballot stuffing, not to mention the exclusion of many thousands of eligible voters. When the Central Election Commission gave the largest tallies to President Shevardnadze's party and the nominally-opposition but Shevardnadze-allied Revival Party, opposition leaders organized large demonstrations in Tbilisi's main street. There, in the rain and cold, protesters spent days demanding the President's resignation and new elections.

Their efforts, born of rage and despair, have been peaceful and the authorities have so far acted with restraint. But Georgia faces a genuine crisis, make no mistake. After ten years of growing frustration at official incompetence and corruption, the country's impoverished public has begun to resist business as usual. Eduard Shevardnadze, still lionized in the West for helping to end the Cold War as Soviet Foreign Minister, has long been deeply unpopular at home. Demands by successive U.S. administrations and international financial institutions to curb pervasive corruption have gone unheeded. And the November 2 election was a harbinger of the presidential race in 2005, when Shevardnadze will not be eligible to run. All participants and analysts agree that the outcome of this year's parliamentary contest will influence the coming succession.

How the Georgian drama will play itself out is hard to predict. But it is clear that Georgia is not alone in suffering through a crisis of trust and legitimacy. On October 17, Azerbaijan held presidential elections that, according to OSCE observers, did not meet international norms. Serious clashes between opposition backers and the authorities erupted in which at least one person was killed and hundreds were injured. Law enforcement agencies arrested hundreds of opposition activists; though most have since been released, according to human rights groups, many were beaten in detention. The Azerbaijani election, moreover, marked the transfer of power from President Heydar Aliyev to his son, establishing the first family dynasty in the former Soviet Union. But Ilham Aliyev has begun his term under a shadow, tainted by an election seen as unfair inside and outside the country and marred by the accompanying violence.

Earlier this year, Armenia held presidential elections in February and parliamentary elections in May that also fell short of OSCE standards. In February, thousands of protesters marched in the snowy streets of Yerevan; perhaps their numbers kept President Robert Kocharian from claiming a first round victory and forced him into a runoff—a first for a sitting president in the Caucasus. Between the two rounds, however, the authori-

ties detained some 200 opposition campaign workers and supporters. On election day, they did whatever was necessary to win in a landslide. The final judgement of the OSCE election observation mission was that "the overall process failed to provide equal conditions for the candidates. Voting, counting and tabulation showed serious irregularities, including widespread ballot box stuffing." The Armenian Assembly of America on March 18 noted that "the people of Armenia deserved nothing less than the declared aim of their government for free, fair and transparent presidential elections. As reported in depth by the OSCE, this achievable standard was not met."

There was some improvement in the May parliamentary contest, concluded the OSCE, especially in the campaign and media coverage. Nevertheless, the election "fell short of international standards . . . in a number of key respects, in particular the counting and tabulation of votes."

In sum, Mr. Speaker, a discouraging and disturbing record for all three countries, marked by a consistent pattern of election rigging by entrenched elites who have learned that they can "get away with it." The international community is prepared to register disapproval, by proclaiming these elections—in diplomatic language, to be sure—short of OSCE norms. But there have never been any other consequences for subverting the democratic process. Nor have opposition parties anywhere been able to annul or change the official results of a falsified electoral process, or even compel governments to negotiate with them.

Perhaps Georgia, where the state is relatively weak and discontent widespread, will prove the exception—although it is alarming that President Shevardnadze has sent his sometime rival Aslan Abashidze, who runs the region of Ajaria like a Central Asian potentate, north to gain Moscow's support. The prospect of Russia propping up a shaky, illegitimate Georgian Government should send shivers down the spine of any American. But until and unless an opposition movement registers some tangible success, the men in charge of the destinies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have no reason to change course. What they are doing works and it benefits them, even if it harms their countries' chances of developing democracy.

Even worse, there is little reason to expect changes for the better. For years, optimists maintained that however discouraging things were, time and constant pressure from Washington and the international community would bring gradual change. As we approach 2004, the 13th year of independence for the former Soviet republics, that prognosis seems increasingly pollyanish. The consolidation of ruling groups, determined to remain in power, in control of the state's law enforcement and judicial agencies, and disposing of significant wealth, makes gradual evolution towards a genuinely democratic mentality and practices ever less plausible. Instead, we see evolution towards what some analysts call "semi-authoritarian" states and others, with reference to the Middle East, term "liberal autocracies."

Mr. Speaker, this admittedly depressing analysis leads to several worrisome conclusions. First, political opposition and publics in the Caucasus have concluded that electoral processes are hopelessly corrupted and offer no prospect of fairly competing for power or

even trying to influence policymaking. Accordingly, they are increasingly inclined to mobilize against their leaders and governments. Even though victories have thus far eluded them, this turn to the "street" bespeaks a perennial politics of resentment instead of compromise and consensus-building. Second, the gulf between rulers and ruled has obvious implications for stability and democracy. Ruling elites will try to tamp down actual protest and curb society's organizing capability, infringing on their basic liberties; this, in turn, will upset the delicate balance between state and society. Change, when it comes, may be violent.

Steadily losing hope, many Armenians, Azerbaijanis and Georgians will likely opt out of politics altogether. Many others will emigrate if they can. This trend has been marked for years in all three countries; Armenians often try to come to the United States; while Azerbaijanis and Georgians find it easier to move to Russia. But the departure of these highly motivated individuals and their families, who often find ways to prosper in their adopted homes, weakens their homelands.

Washington has observed these tendencies with concern but little action. Democracy-building programs may help develop civil society but have little impact on leaders who pursue their own interests and are quite prepared to dismiss the State Department's criticism of yet another rigged election—even if, as happened yesterday, the Department, in unprecedentedly strong language, said the Georgian election "results do not accurately reflect the will of the Georgian people, but instead reflect massive vote fraud in Ajara and other Georgian regions." And while we are preoccupied with Iraq and the war on terrorism, Moscow has been steadily rebuilding its assets in these countries, buying up infrastructure in equity-for-debt deals and offering all possible support to those in power.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, our chances of influencing political evolution in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia may not be very great. But they will diminish to zero unless we recognize the problem, and soon.

HONORING MR. FRANK M.
LAMPKIN, JR.

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, October 24th of this year, Louisiana and the United States lost a fine American and a good friend. Frank Lampkin, Jr. of Bossier City passed away at the age of 79. Though he has passed away, he leaves behind a rich legacy and a community made better by his good work.

Mr. Lampkin was a giver in every sense of the word. He gave to his country as a Sergeant in the Marines. He gave his time and energy, inspiring the children of Northwest Louisiana as a teacher, a coach, and a principal for more than three decades. He raised a family. And he continued to find ways to give back even more to his community.

Over the years Mr. Lampkin was an integral member of campaigns like the Clean City Committee, the Salvation Army Food Drive and Bell Ringing, Shots for Tots, and awards programs to inspire learning in elementary school children.

His list of awards and achievements is remarkable. He was a Kiwanian of the Year and had 50 years of perfect attendance at the Kiwanis Club of Bossier. He was inducted into the Louisiana High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Northwestern Educators' Hall of Fame. He was a recipient of the Air Force R.O.T.C. Outstanding Service Award.

Despite all of these achievements, Mr. Lampkin will best be remembered as a husband, a father, a mentor, a neighbor, and a friend.

Frank Lampkin was an inspiring member of his community and I am pleased to have had a chance today to share some of the highlights of his life with those who never had the chance to meet him.

COMMENDING BARBARA REYNOLDS FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE ON CAPITOL HILL

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to a long-time member of my staff who is retiring this December. Barbara Reynolds has worked for me as my scheduler and executive assistant since I was elected in 1994. Barbara's career on Capitol Hill preceded mine by 13 years. This experience, along with her talent and willingness to accommodate the busy schedule of a Congressman, was invaluable.

Before coming to work on the Hill, Barbara had been a stay-at-home mom, taking care of her two children. She had never really given much thought to getting involved in the political world, but, in 1979, at the suggestion of her father-in-law, she handed a resume to a friend at the Republican Policy Committee and, in about a week, landed a job with then-Representative Carlos Moorehead from California. This, however, was not her only job at the time. Barbara often spent her weekends as a professional model—many say she looked just like Jackie Kennedy Onassis. Her modeling took her all over the world as well as provided her with many commercial advertising opportunities. As a result of this, some current House maintenance workers who were around at the time still refer to Barbara as "Jackie" when they see her in the halls.

In 1985 Barbara began working for then-Representative and eventual presidential candidate Jack Kemp. In addition to working in his personal office she also worked on his campaign in New Hampshire.

After working with Jack Kemp, Barbara moved on to work for my Florida colleague, Representative CLIFF STEARNS in 1988. Barbara spent six years working for Representative STEARNS where she established her Florida roots.

In 1995 Barbara came to work for me and has worked in my Washington office since my first day in office. I am incredibly grateful for her loyalty to my staff and me. It will be nearly impossible to replace her uplifting spirit. Her presence in my office added a touch of class and style, which are sometimes hard to find in the world of politics.

I, along with her coworkers and others outside my office whose lives she has touched,

will miss her presence on Capitol Hill. Barbara Reynolds's retirement is well earned. She plans to pursue her hobby of boating on the Chesapeake with her husband, Bob, as well as continue to be a loving mother and grandmother to her two grown children and to her grandchildren. We all wish her many blessings and much happiness in the years to come.

Thank you Barbara, for your service to my office, the people of Florida, and the many others with whom you have worked on Capitol Hill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2417,
INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great concerns over the Intelligence Authorization Conference Report. I do not agree that Members of Congress should vote in favor of an authorization that most know almost nothing about—including the most basic issue of the level of funding.

What most concerns me about this conference report, though, is something that should outrage every single American citizen. I am referring to the stealth addition of language drastically expanding FBI powers to secretly and without court order snoop into the business and financial transactions of American citizens. These expanded internal police powers will enable the FBI to demand transaction records from businesses, including auto dealers, travel agents, pawnbrokers and more, without the approval or knowledge of a judge or grand jury. This was written into the bill at the 11th hour over the objections of members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would normally have jurisdiction over the FBI. The Judiciary Committee was frozen out of the process. It appears we are witnessing a stealth enactment of the enormously unpopular "Patriot II" legislation that was first leaked several months ago. Perhaps the national outcry when a draft of the Patriot II act was leaked has led its supporters to enact it one piece at a time in secret. Whatever the case, this is outrageous and unacceptable. I urge each of my colleagues to join me in rejecting this bill and its incredibly dangerous expansion of Federal police powers.

I also have concerns about the rest of the bill. One of the few things we do know about this final version is that we are authorizing even more than the president has requested for the intelligence community. The intelligence budget seems to grow every year, but we must ask what we are getting for our money. It is notoriously difficult to assess the successes of our intelligence apparatus, and perhaps it is unfair that we only hear about its failures and shortcomings. However, we cannot help but be concerned over several such failures in recent years. Despite the tens of billions we spend on these myriad intelligence agencies, it is impossible to ignore the failure of our federal intelligence community to detect and prevent the September 11 attacks. Additionally, it is becoming increasingly obvious that our intelligence community failed completely to accurately assess the nature of the

Iraqi threat. These are by any measure grave failures, costing us incalculably in human lives and treasure. Yet from what little we can know about this bill, the solution is to fund more of the same. I would hope that we might begin coming up with new approaches to our intelligence needs, perhaps returning to an emphasis on the proven value of human intelligence and expanded linguistic capabilities for our intelligence personnel.

I am also concerned that our scarce resources are again being squandered pursuing a failed drug war in Colombia, as this bill continues to fund our disastrous Colombia policy. Billions of dollars have been spent in Colombia to fight this drug war, yet more drugs than ever are being produced abroad and shipped into the United States—including a bumper crop of opium sent by our new allies in Afghanistan. Evidence in South America suggests that any decrease in Colombian production of drugs for the US market has only resulted in increased production in neighboring countries. As I have stated repeatedly, the solution to the drug problem lies not in attacking the producers abroad or in creating a militarized police state to go after the consumers at home, but rather in taking a close look at our seemingly insatiable desire for these substances. Until that issue is addressed we will continue wasting billions of dollars in a losing battle.

In conclusion, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this dangerous and expensive bill.

THE ALDER CREEK DROUGHT PROTECTION PROJECT

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Alder Creek Water Storage and Conservation Project Act. This legislation will authorize The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the El Dorado County Irrigation District, to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a water storage project on Alder Creek in El Dorado County, California.

The Alder Creek Water Storage and Conservation Project would include the construction of a dam and 31,700 acre foot reservoir that would yield approximately 11,500 acre feet of additional water supply per year. A major advantage of this location is the ability to deliver this water by gravity into El Dorado Irrigation District's existing water delivery system and to the American River to increase in-stream flows for the propagation of fallrun Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout.

Like many communities in the arid West, El Dorado County faces water supply shortages that threaten people, cities, farms and the environment. The El Dorado Irrigation District, which serves over 100,000 of my constituents, is charged with the difficult task of providing a safe and reliable water supply throughout the region for all of these competing interests. Severe drought periods, like we are experiencing now, and explosive growth rates that are occurring in portions of El Dorado County, have made this task even more arduous. EID deserves great credit for developing alternative sources of water, such as recycled water, to ease the burden of inadequate supplies. In fact, all new developments within The El Do-

rado Irrigation District's service area are hooked up to recycled water lines that run in the front and back of the properties which conserves precious drinking water. However, if current trends continue, which all indications say they will, other alternative sources of water will be required in order to keep up with demand. To avoid a crisis, the District is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to protect against multiple-year drought events. The Alder project would be a key component in the Districts overall drought protection strategy that would also include water banking and intergovernmental agreements.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this legislation be given prompt consideration so that the benefits of this important project can be realized in a timely manner.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION ACT OF 2003"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the introduction of the National Film Preservation Act of 2003, which reauthorizes the National Film Preservation Act of 1996.

We all know that motion pictures are amongst this nation's cultural treasures, going beyond entertainment to represent American ideals and values to people across the world. Unfortunately, the films on which many motion pictures are created are easily susceptible to physical deterioration; in fact, over fifty percent of movies made before 1950 have deteriorated and over ninety percent of movies from before 1929 have disintegrated.

The 1996 Act was designed to ensure that we could protect the treasures we still have. It created the National Film Preservation Board and the National Film Preservation Foundation. The NFPB generates public awareness of a national film registry and reviews initiatives to ensure the preservation valued films. The NFPF issues grants to libraries and other institutions that can save films from degradation.

The program has received accolades from organizations such as the Directors Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Noted filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Ken Burns also have praised the NFPB and the NFPF.

Unfortunately, the program officially expired October 11, 2003, and was not reauthorized. The legislation being introduced today would remedy that oversight by reauthorizing both the NFPB and the NFPF. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable effort as we move it through the House.

CONFERENCE REPORT H.R. 6

SPEECH OF

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, among other things, would authorize the promulgation of mandatory and enforceable standards for the North American transmission system by an Electric Reliability

Organization subject to FERC oversight in the U.S. Having been so recently reminded that transmission system failures and system reliability do not respect state or international boundaries, it is essential that this legislation protect consumers in one state from actions or events in another. Under the plain language of new FPA section 215 (i)(3), no state may take any action with respect to the safety, adequacy and reliability of electric service within that State if that action is determined by the Electric Reliability Organization or by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to be inconsistent with any reliability standard. A regional entity that satisfies the requirements of new section 215 (e)(4) may propose to the Electric Reliability Organization reliability standards that reflect regional differences, and the Electric Reliability Organization may approve such proposed standards when justified.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR EPHRAIM AND MRS. CARRIE SUE WILLIAMS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Pastor Ephraim and Mrs. Carrie Sue Williams as they celebrate a personal milestone. On November 22, 2003, Pastor Williams and his beloved wife will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. As their friends and family gather to commemorate this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing one of Sacramento's most revered couples a happy anniversary and continued happiness in the future.

For the past 32 years, Mr. and Mrs. Williams have served with great class, dignity, and distinction as the Pastor and First Lady of the St. Paul Baptist Church in Sacramento California. As Pastor, Mr. Williams has played an instrumental role in directing and coordinating all aspects of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Williams made vital decisions related to staffing, church organization structure, finances, and the modification of facilities. Pastor Williams was the driving force behind the construction of a seventy-nine square foot edifice, which includes an administration wing, sanctuary, fellowship hall and classroom wing. Pastor Williams spearheaded a 7-year effort that liquidated a \$4 million debt for the church so that it could cover the \$7.7 million that was required for the construction project. Pastor Williams is currently leading the church in the building of a multi million-dollar Family Life Center that will include a gymnasium, classrooms, computer lab, dance rooms, nursery, office space, library, weight room and conference room. Pastor Williams' commitment to improve the church is great proof of his willingness to work hard to improve the lives of other people.

Mrs. Carrie Sue Williams is a former business owner and she has brought her trademark grace and dignity to her role as the First Lady of St. Paul Baptist Church. As the First Lady, Mrs. Williams regularly visits the sick and the confined. She also counsels women and couples. Mrs. Williams helped to design

the St. Paul Children and Youth Reading Ministry, a program that is designed to motivate and reward children for their reading efforts.

Pastor Williams is undoubtedly one of the strongest civic leaders in the Capital Region. Pastor Williams' leadership capacities have included: President of United Pastors of Sacramento, Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc, President of the California State Baptist Convention and President of the Northern District Baptist Association. Pastor Williams is the current President of the Oak Park and St. Paul Community Outreach Program.

Pastor and First Lady Williams are the proud parents of Gwen and Ephraim Jr., although he has since passed on. They also enjoy the love and companionship of their four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Pastor Williams and First Lady Williams on their 50th wedding anniversary. As the family and friends of the Williams family gather to celebrate this terrific milestone, I would like to especially thank Pastor Williams and First Lady Williams for all their great service to their community. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Pastor Ephraim Williams and First Lady Carrie Sue Williams continued success in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 620, 621, 622, and 623. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 620 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S.J. Res. 22, Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service; rollcall vote 621 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S.J. Res. 18, Commending the Inspectors General; roll call vote 622 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 299, Honoring Sargent Shriver; and rollcall vote 623, on the Hour of Meeting.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 620, 621, 622, and 623.

HONORING MR. DANIEL MILLER OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS, TO RECOGNIZE HIS DESIGN OF THE TEXAS STATE QUARTER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Miller of Arlington, Texas. Daniel is the artist who designed the Texas State quarter, which will debut in 2004 and will be the 28th in the series of state commemorative quarters from the U.S. Mint. His design was picked from over 3000 entries.

Daniel has gracefully and accurately captured the spirit of our great State. The Texas State quarter will feature a Lone Star springing from the outline of a map of Texas, with a lar-

iat featured prominently. When asked about what inspired him with the coin's design, Daniel simply said, "I toyed around with putting the Alamo in, but Texas is so much more than just the Alamo."

Indeed, Texas is much more than the Alamo. Its rich history and people can hardly be summed up in a coin, but Mr. Miller has gamely risen to the task. Although a native Minnesotan, having come to Texas only 15 years ago, Daniel's design tells me that the blood of a true Texan runs through his veins.

Daniel's inspired work will soon be familiar to millions of people across this great nation. Whether they collect or spend the Texas quarter, I believe that a little bit of the Texas spirit will rub off on everyone who encounters Daniel's work of art.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Daniel and his work to recognize Texas's great history. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Daniel Miller as we celebrate his design for the Texas State quarter. We salute him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act of 2003. My bill would expand Medicare eligibility for uninsured patients with advanced chronic kidney disease before their condition progresses to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) status. The bill would provide access to healthcare and most importantly disease management and pre-ESRD educational and counseling services. It would improve the health and quality of life for those suffering from kidney disease and could provide real savings for the Medicare program by helping chronic kidney disease patients delay costly dialysis treatments and kidney transplants associated with the end stage status of the disease.

ESRD patients are the only group of patients eligible for Medicare enrollment solely due to their medical diagnosis. ESRD is characterized by a permanent loss of kidney function, which results in the need for dialysis treatments or kidney transplantation in order to sustain life. Under current law, a physician must certify that an individual's kidney functions have deteriorated to end-stage status for a patient to be eligible for the Medicare ESRD program. Subsequently, there may be an additional waiting period of up to 3 months depending on the type of dialysis procedure chosen by the patient before the individual becomes eligible for benefits. Thus, benefits are only received after the cessation of adequate kidney functioning.

The cost to the Federal Government for providing care to an ESRD patient is very high. The average per capita expense for all ESRD patients was \$33,282 in 2000, approximately 8 times the annual cost of care for the average Medicare beneficiary. The annual cost for in-center hemodialysis, the most frequent form of dialysis used, approaches \$55,000.

There has been a substantial amount of research within the past several years indicating

that the provision of improved medical care and disease-related pre-ESRD educational and counseling services to advanced chronic kidney disease patients prior to their progressing to end-stage renal status has multiple positive effects. The provision of these pre-ESRD services slows down the progression toward ESRD status, decreases the occurrence and intensity of related diseases and decreases overall mortality rates. By allowing uninsured patients with advanced kidney disease to access care prior to qualifying for Medicare due to an End Stage Renal Disease diagnosis, this bill wisely and appropriately addresses a critical unmet health need.

Under the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act, uninsured, pre-ESRD chronic kidney disease patients would be eligible for full Medicare coverage and pre-ESRD counseling and educational services. To be eligible, a physician would need to certify that a chronic kidney disease patient has reached a level of kidney functioning deterioration predictive of a need for dialysis or a transplant in the next 1½ years under a widely accepted clinical standard. Individuals eligible under the bill would pay Medicare Part B premiums. Pre-ESRD educational and counseling services provided by this legislation address treatment options, disease management, and nutrition. These new services would also be available to current Medicare enrollees who become diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.

This bill also requests that the Secretary of Health and Human Services establish at least 2 demonstration projects in cooperation with recognized kidney patient organizations, to devise ways, or demonstrate means through which peer education procedures can slow progress to ESRD and improve outcomes for patients with this disease.

Today, more than 300,000 individuals are covered under the Medicare ESRD program. By 2010, it is expected that this number will more than double. This bill, which is supported by the National Kidney Association and the American Association of Kidney Patients, will help minimize the damaging impact of this chronic illness and slow the growth of individuals suffering from ESRD. By delaying the need for either dialysis or transplantation, one can also anticipate substantial cost savings to the government. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act so we can make these vital improvements to the Medicare program for those who suffer from chronic kidney disease.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER DOWNEY OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with genuine pleasure that I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Jennifer Downey of Clinton Township, Michigan, for her recent promotion to Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was established in 1958 to develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions, and its significant role in national

defense. The goal of the Cadet Corps is to encourage young people to develop an interest in basic seamanship and teach cadets patriotism, courage, confidence and self reliance.

Cadet CPO Downey has been a member of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Program's Tomcat Squadron for over 5 years. She has completed a large number of advanced training courses over her tenure in the program, including seamanship training aboard the USNSC *Grayfox*, Coast Guard training, Master at Arms School, and Petty Officer Leadership Academy. In addition, she has completed sixty-four hours of community service and won numerous citations and ribbons.

Cadet CPO Downey's promotion to Chief Petty Officer was brought to my attention in a letter from her Commanding Officer, LTJG Lisa Stoyanovich, who writes me to say that CPO Downey "is a very personable young woman who takes pride in herself and her unit. CPO Downey's performance of her duties is always top-notch, her leadership abilities are exceptional, and her ability to motivate other cadets is finely tuned. Through her years of Navy League Cadet and Naval Sea Cadet training, she has earned the respect of her peers, and the officers in the unit."

The letter from Lieutenant Stoyanovich goes on to say that "Chief Petty Officer Downey has developed into a mature, solid leader and is a fine example of what the Sea Cadet Corps hopes to develop in young people."

I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Petty Officer Jennifer Downey for her achievements as a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

OPPOSING THE SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill despite being one of its cosponsors and having voted for it when it came before the House on October 15th.

I strongly believe Syria's actions ought to be called into question. To say this regime is a bad actor is putting it mildly. Their actions are rightly condemned, especially when it comes to their tacit support for terrorism and ongoing occupation of Lebanon. The United States ought to use the tools at our disposal—both political and economic—to demand an end to their egregious policies.

There is, however, a reason why I am voting against this resolution. It is based on my long held reservations about the President's intentions on foreign policy. Given his belligerent declarations yesterday, I have genuine concerns that he may seek authority in this resolution to pursue aggressive military action against Syria.

After all, Mr. Speaker, this President did not need much to march to war against Iraq. At best, the evidence was soft, the intelligence was trumped up and now not a grain of proof can be found showing Iraq had any weapons of mass destruction. But, ultimately, President Bush used past declarations of Congress meant merely to reprimand Iraq for its policies to justify full-blown war against that regime.

This resolution today contains provisions that rightly admonish Syria, but do so on the

basis of reasonable beliefs and assumptions, not proven facts. Most notably, there is reference to Syria's "hostile actions" in regard to the United States and our troops in Iraq. Although our suspicions are well founded, there is as yet no proven connection between the government of Syria and terrorism in Iraq.

I have concerns the President may not draw this distinction and take these words as grounds for pursuing preemptive military action.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't trust this President. His actions toward Iraq have clearly demonstrated his willingness to lie to the American people. But, they also underscore his willingness to use force indiscriminately without the burden of proof.

I cannot support a resolution that might be used as a vehicle for the President to act counter to the interest of the American people. I vote "no" on this resolution.

HONORING THE BASIC HIGH SCHOOL MJROTC UNIT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Basic High School Marine Corps JROTC unit. I am proud to represent this outstanding group of young men and women and urge the entire House to join me in commending them today.

The MJROTC unit at Basic High, in Henderson, Nevada is one of the top JROTC units in the country, having been recognized as a Naval Honor School for the 2002–2003 school year. In addition, the Basic High MJROTC unit is the National Champion of the unarmed competition at the United States Air Force Academy National Invitational Drill Meet Championship, and has won seven times in the last 9 years. The Basic High armed competition unit has won the National Championship every time it has competed.

Basic High MJROTC is not only a champion on the drill field; it is also a champion in producing young men and women of character. Basic High MJROTC has been an active part of honoring Veterans Day in Henderson, with the whole battalion presenting the colors for the City of Henderson ceremony. The unit also led the local celebrations of the 228th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps. I want to thank the members of the unit, and instructors Lieutenant Colonel Montgomery, Master Gunnery Sergeant Ignatz, and First Sergeant Rael for standing always faithful, "Semper Fidelis," to the best traditions of Nevada, America, and the U.S. Marine Corps.

HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the amazing life and contributions of Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, OP, Ph.D., as she prepares to retire from service to the

Barry University community this December. Sister Jeanne is the president of Barry University, which is located in Miami Shores, Florida. Since becoming president in 1981, Sister Jeanne has worked endlessly to increase the reputation and endowment of Barry University, raise hundreds of millions of dollars for her student's aid, and create a student body and alumni that stretches 70 countries, ranking number one in diversity among southern regional universities.

Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where she first learned what it meant to love and educate. As a little girl, she realized that in order to stop hatred, crime, and injustice, education must be the first priority on any agenda. Sister recalls the story when she was a 13-year old girl riding a streetcar in Detroit, she noticed a black woman enter the car with four small children. As the streetcar lurched forward, one of the children fell into her lap. Without hesitating, young Jeanne gladly held the young child for the remainder of the ride. Later, as a man departed the streetcar, he walked by and spit on young Jeanne.

Startled by what occurred, Jeanne asked her father later that evening why the man spit on her. Jeanne's father replied, "prejudice". Innocently, Jeanne asked, "how do you stop that?" "Education" was her father's answer. This simple response began a vision. A vision we honor today.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters founded Barry University in 1940, as a university dedicated to educating women. Since then, the University has continued to be administered by women, including the last 22-years with Sister Jeanne at the helm. My first year in the people's House, was also Sister's first year as Barry president. The year was 1981, and for Sister Jeanne it was the beginning of an educational revolution. In 22 tremendous years, Barry has changed from a predominantly women's university of 2,000, into a diverse campus of 8,500. She has raised nearly \$170 million for the university since she took office and has seen the university contribute nearly \$200 million to South Florida's economy last year.

Under the supervision of Sister Jeanne, Barry has been able to sustain in excess of 1,000 employees, up from 340 when Sister Jeanne started in 1981. Barry's budget has also increased dramatically rising from \$8.3 million to a staggering \$100 million. Barry's endowment has also risen more than 2,000 percent to \$22 million during the past 22 years. The university now offers seven doctoral degrees, including the only Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in the Southeast, and only seven universities in the country to offer such a degree. During her term as president, Sister Jeanne has inspired those around her to give more and more of themselves to better the lives of the students of Barry University. A tireless educator, Sister Jeanne has not only contributed greatly to Barry University, but also to many other institutions around Florida and the nation.

Sister Jeanne has served as chair of the Council of Independent Colleges from 1994–1996, the chair of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities also from 1994–1996, and as an Executive Council member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges from 1991–1996. Just in Florida alone, Sister Jeanne has

served as president of the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities and chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities. As a testament to her dedication to education, four Florida universities: Holy Cross College, University of Miami, Rollins College, and Lynn University, have conferred honorary degrees on Sister Jeanne, making her one of the most respected and loved educators in Florida's history.

Sister Jeanne has also been an advocate of revitalizing South Florida's economy. South Florida's power elite noticed her qualities and dedication and named Sister the first female member of two exclusive groups: The Orange Bowl Committee and the Non-Group. The Orange Bowl Committee is a group of dedicated, South Florida volunteers, who are committed to bringing tourism to South Florida through the annual college football game. Now, one of the four most prestigious college football bowl games in America, the Orange Bowl festivities bring in an excess of 150,000 visitors every year, which contribute to a thriving South Florida economy.

Despite all her dedication and hard work, even Sister Jeanne is susceptible to illness and in 1996, Sister was diagnosed with lung cancer. However, even this disease could not stop her determination. Following disclosing publicly her illness, Sister helped raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Speaker, as a fellow lung cancer survivor, I know how difficult life seems after being diagnosed with such a terrible illness. For Sister Jeanne to continue her work like this is an inspiration to every cancer patient and survivor in America. I am also grateful to Sister for her thoughts and prayers during my illness earlier this year.

Sister Jeanne is a dear friend, and someone I am truly proud to know and love. Sister Jeanne's vision continues. Her love for Barry and South Florida is evident evermore. Under Sister Jeanne's supervision, Barry University is attempting the largest construction project in Miami Shores history. Nearly \$18 million will bring a new student center and residence hall to accommodate the growing student population, which Sister Jeanne has pushed to grow and expand ever since she took office.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of Florida's Congressional Delegation, I salute Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin for her 22 years as President of Barry University. May God bless Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin.

H.R. 2297, VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2297, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, contains myriad benefits for our nation's veterans, many of which are long overdue. The bill builds on education benefits by expanding the Montgomery GI Bill program, a successful program that will now include educational assistance for on the job training in certain self-employment programs. It also increases monthly educational benefits for spouses and

dependent children of veterans with permanent total disabilities, or who have died as a result of combat.

Among the housing benefits in the bill is a provision allowing remarried surviving spouses of veterans to be buried next to the veteran in a national cemetery, based on the original marriage. A prohibition on remarried spouses burial eligibility is unfair to many of the dedicated spouses who have faithfully supported their veterans for years. I was a cosponsor of the original bill for this measure and support its passage.

The section of the bill relating to benefits for former Prisoners of War contains a provision that will add cirrhosis of the liver to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities for former POWs. It also eliminates the unfair requirement that a POW must be held for at least 30 days to qualify for presumption of service-connection for certain disabilities, such as psychoses and states of anxiety. We owe it to our former POWs to repay them for what they have been through as much as we possibly can, and this provision is a step in that direction.

Yet another beneficial provision in this bill is the extension for six years of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. As a representative in a state with over 9,000 Native American veterans, and with over 17,200 Hispanic veterans in my district alone, I fully support this provision and believe it is a necessary step to the continued service to all minority veterans.

Another provision in the bill provides federal contracting officials the discretionary authority to award sole source contracts to small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. I am pleased that the Senate took out the "notwithstanding any other provision of law" phrase that was in the original version of H.R. 1460, from which the language for this provision of H.R. 2297 was taken. The language included in the original version of H.R. 1460 was very harmful to the 8(a) small business contract program, a program that benefits minority-owned small businesses all across this country. As a member of both the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and House Small Business Committee I worked to forge a suitable compromise that would ensure increased contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses, while not harming the 8(a) program that has helped provide economic opportunity for minority entrepreneurs. With the help of the Chairmen and Ranking Members of both committees, we were able to unanimously pass an amended version of H.R. 1460.

Unfortunately the unanimously passed version of H.R. 1460 is not what is included in H.R. 2297 today, but neither is the originally damaging language of H.R. 1460 included in this bill. I do have remaining concerns about the effect of the included contracting provision on the 8(a) and other small business programs, but considering the numerous important provisions for our nation's veterans contained in this bill, I will vote in favor.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I strongly support increased opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs. In fact, with the support of Congresswoman SUE KELLY, I recently introduced H.R. 3483, the Seeds for Soldiers Act, to establish a loan program and a vocational rehabilitation program for veterans. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Com-

mittee, I strongly support strengthening benefits for our Nation's veterans, who have fought so bravely to protect our country. I support the passage of H.R. 2297 and look forward to continuing work in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to support our Nation's heroes.

LET'S GO LANCERS

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, while the Boston Red Sox failed to finally capture a World Series victory that has eluded them since 1918, another group of Hardball Heroes from Red Sox Nation did achieve their ultimate goal. The Malden Catholic Lancers defied all expectations, overcame every obstacle, and defeated every opponent to finish the year as Massachusetts Division One State Champions.

While Red Sox fans will have to wait until next year yet again, the Lancers fans can rejoice and celebrate the success of this young team of schoolyard superstars.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with faculty, students, my fellow alumni, and all members of the Malden Catholic community who are saying congratulations!

It was Coach Stephen Freker's guidance and leadership that fueled these young men as they drove to the championship. The National High School Baseball Coach's Association affirmed what we knew all along by naming Coach Freker New England's Coach of the Year.

These Lancers worked hard, practiced long, and gave their hearts and souls for the blue and gold all year long. While they are great individual players, their true greatness lies in their ability to play as team.

Mr. Speaker, this was our year.

Let's Go Lancers!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GLENDALE GENERAL RICHARD GRIDLEY CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the General Gridley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on their 90th anniversary celebration.

Mrs. Mary Howard Gridley Braly founded the chapter on December 19, 1913. Mrs. Braly served as an organizing regent, and was later named Regent-For-Life by Chapter members. Mrs. Braly and her daughter first became members of the National Society of D.A.R. in 1983 in Highland Park, Illinois. Then recording Secretary General Miss Eugenia Washington, one of the D.A.R. founders, signed their applications.

The chapter is named for General Richard Gridley, ancestor of Mary's first husband James Conger Gridley. General Gridley was born in Boston in 1711. In 1745 he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the Artillery in

the expedition against the French fortress of Louisbourg of Cape Breton Island. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in April 1775, he was commissioned chief engineer and Colonel of Artillery and was wounded in the battle of Bunker Hill. He married Hannah Deming and had nine children. He served with General George Washington throughout the Revolutionary War. In 1798 General Gridley died in Staughton, Massachusetts at the age of 87.

Today the chapter is extremely involved in the community. It is active in veterans' services, ROTC programs, and scholarship programs with our local high schools. The chapter also presented the City of Glendale with the Department of Defense's 50th Anniversary of the Korean War flag. This flag currently flies over the Glendale War Memorial at City Hall.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the General Gridley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on 90 exemplary years of service to the City of Glendale and surrounding communities.

A HERO LEAVES BEHIND A LAST- ING LEGACY—GOD'S LOVE: RE- MARKS ON BEHALF OF ROBERT HODGES

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Monday was a sad day for Eastern North Carolinians and America as a whole. On November 10, 2003, North Carolina lost her oldest living Veteran, Robert Hodges. When Mr. Hodges passed away, he was 115.

I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Hodges at an event in his hometown just a few years ago. Even in the brief interaction I shared with this living legend, I was struck by his sharp mind and vitality. I can still remember Mr. Hodges singing "Over There" so beautifully . . . he was so lucid, his voice so clear, you would never have believed he was celebrating his 114th birthday.

Born June 18, 1888, Mr. Hodges was not only North Carolina's oldest living veteran, he was one of America's longest living war heroes as well.

Mr. Hodges had a phenomenal story. He was born in North Carolina's first official town, Bath. The grandson of slaves, Mr. Hodges shared a three-room house with his parents and 9 siblings.

He worked the fields in rural Eastern North Carolina until 1918. At the age of 20, Mr. Hodges enlisted in the Army and went on to serve in France during World War I.

After World War I, Hodges returned to North Carolina and married Malinda. The couple enjoyed 70 years together until her death at the age of 92.

Mr. Hodges and his wife raised 7 children on their farm in Pamlico County, where Mr. Hodges worked until his poor eyesight forced him into retirement. The Hodges family still calls the Pamlico area home, with his surviving children living in Stonewall and New Bern.

He was honored in 2002 with North Carolina's Order of the Longleaf Pine, the state's highest civilian order.

While Mr. Hodges most certainly leaves behind an amazing personal and military history, I must say that in my opinion, the most significant legacy this hero left behind is a pure and stalwart love of Jesus Christ. Last year Mr. Hodges was quoted as saying, "What I figure on is anything you can do for the Lord is all right."

Despite all his honors and all the attention he had showered on him through the years, Mr. Hodges always kept his heart in check. He knew that in the end, he would take nothing with him when he left this world.

More important than all the military medals and awards was the love of Jesus.

I believe wholeheartedly that the secret of Mr. Hodges long life was love of family and love of the Lord.

That is why I'm confident that when Mr. Hodges closed his eyes to this world, he opened them in Heaven. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a reward well earned by Mr. Hodges' life lived by faith. From battlefield to his front porch, Mr. Hodges did it all for the glory of the Lord.

I stand today in remembrance of this military hero and godly man. May God bless his soul, and the family he left behind.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the House is considering H.R. 1651—The Sierra National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2003 on suspension today. I thank my colleagues, Mr. NUNES and Mr. DOOLEY, in addition to Resources Committee Chairman POMBO, for their support and assistance on this measure.

H.R. 1651 completes a land exchange between the Forest Service and a constituent of mine, Mr. Bob Glassman. Under the exchange, the Forest Service will obtain an 80 acre parcel within the Sierra National Forest from my constituent, who will in turn receive a 160 acre parcel located on Shaver Lake and also within the Sierra National Forest.

Upon completion of the land exchange with the Forest Service, my bill states that my constituent will convey the newly acquired 160 parcel on Shaver Lake to the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts have operated a recreational camp on a portion of this land for over five decades. Thousands of Scouts use the camp each year to experience outdoor activities and gain leadership skills. Owning the property will allow the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts to make improvements to the facilities located on the land. This bill, therefore, allows the Scouts to provide continued opportunities for young men to learn the importance of and actively participate in serving their community.

Given that there is a hydroelectric facility at Shaver Lake, I have worked with the operator of that facility, Southern California Edison, to ensure it can maintain and operate its hydro project once the land exchange is completed. As a strong supporter of hydroelectric power, I am pleased to say that under my legisla-

tion—this hydro facility can continue to operate unencumbered.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1651 is a non-controversial piece of legislation that will benefit the lives of Boy Scouts for years to come. As such, I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2754, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP- MENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, Mr. Hobson and the ranking member, Mr. Visclosky for their good work on this bill. This conference report deserves the overwhelming support it is about to receive.

I do want to bring attention to one provision in this bill that has not received the scrutiny it deserves. Section 115 is an affront to our nation's environmental laws. It was not included in either the House or Senate bills and was added in conference. The provision waives all environmental laws and directs the construction of a road from the village of King Cove, Alaska through the sensitive Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and right to the boundary of the fragile and internationally significant Izembek Wilderness Area.

Specifically, Section 115 directs the Corps of Engineers to build a road proposed in one Alternative from a draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared to evaluate several modes of transportation between the villages of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska. The Environmental Protection Agency has raised significant concerns with the alternative mandated by Section 115. The Corps of Engineers is still reviewing public comment on the draft EIS.

The King Cove Access Project first surfaced as legislation in 1998. Proponents attempted to add the provision to an appropriations bill that year but were not successful. A compromise was reached later that year with the King Cove Health and Safety Act which was included as Section 353 of Public Law 105-277, the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The measure appropriated \$40 million to address the access needs of the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay; however, the Act did not approve a road through the Izembek refuge or the Izembek Wilderness. In fact, the legislation specifically required that expenditure of the funds allocated in the bill "must be in accordance with all other applicable laws."

Five years after a satisfactory compromise was agreed upon, this rider inappropriately short-circuits the public process. An administrative decision on a project to enhance marine-road access for the community of King Cove is proceeding in a timely manner and does not require intervention by Congress. However, the King Cove Access Project mandates one alternative in the EIS, thereby effectively ignoring the advice of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, other federal agencies and the American public.

Section 115 is an affront not only to public process, but also to our nation's environmental

laws. Unlike the King Cove Health & Safety Act, which is subject to national environmental laws, the King Cove Access Project is "notwithstanding any other provision of law." It is inappropriate to exempt the Izembek refuge from federal environmental laws in this manner.

The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, on the Alaska Peninsula, is internationally recognized as one of the most important wetland reserves in the Northern Hemisphere. Home to threatened and endangered species, as well as millions of migratory birds, the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and Izembek Wilderness are keys in the fight to conserve the natural diversity of wildlife populations and habitats. A road through the refuge will inevitably damage the refuge's critically important habitat.

The King Cove Access Project ignores environmental laws, threatens important wildlife habitat and sets a dangerous anti-wilderness precedent. The 17-mile road proposal is not compatible with the purposes of the refuge, as established by ANILCA, or with the Wilderness Act. The King Cove Access Project rider is terrible policy and terrible process.

FAIRNESS TO CONTACT LENS CONSUMERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3140, "The Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act of 2003," which provides contact lens wearers with important new rights. This bill ensures that unscrupulous eye doctors will no longer be able hold consumers' contact lens prescriptions hostage, forcing them to purchase lenses solely from their doctor's office. In addition, this legislation will make shopping for lenses simpler and cheaper.

Currently, eye doctors are only required to give patients their prescriptions for eyeglasses. Eyeglass wearers have had this right since 1978, when the Federal Trade Commission issued a regulation granting eyeglass wearers the right to automatically receive a copy of their prescription following an exam. Contact lenses were understandably not included in this regulation because, at the time, most contacts were hard lenses, which were custom-made to fit each patient. Today, most contact lenses are mass produced, soft lenses that do not require manipulation by eye doctors. As a result of this improvement, today's contact lens wearers should have the same right as eyeglass wearers to obtain their prescription, at no additional charge. That is why I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act.

Approximately 36 million Americans wear contact lenses. Each year, these Americans spend an estimated \$3.5 billion on contact lenses. Providing consumers with an automatic right to their prescriptions will allow them to shop around for contact lenses based on price, service, and convenience. It is estimated that H.R. 3140 could save consumers approximately \$350 million annually, thanks in large part to increased competition. Competition among contact lens companies will result

in lower prices, a greater choice of lens providers, and more convenient ways to fill contact lens prescriptions.

H.R. 3140 is bipartisan legislation supported by both optometrists and retailers. I have been working on this issue for a number of years, and am pleased to "see" it pass the House in a bipartisan manner. I encourage the Senate to take up this bill and help contact lens wearers receive this right.

HONORING MR. SARGENT SHRIVER

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 299, a resolution honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America. Growing up with a role model like my uncle, Sargent Shriver, doesn't allow much room for failure. He has served our nation in countless ways and on multiple fronts. When he retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander, he could have ended his public service career then, and been proud of his accomplishments. But he chose to continue to serve our nation when President Kennedy appointed him the first Director of the Peace Corps. Sargent Shriver exceeded expectations for the initiative by developing volunteer programs in more than 50 countries around the world.

Sargent Shriver and his wife, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, went on to establish the Special Olympics during the 1960's, when those with mental retardation were often institutionalized because of a lack of understanding of their needs and abilities. The Shrivvers recognized the importance of challenging these individuals with physical activities, when others simply cast them aside. The Special Olympics brought courage to their lives and taught them the value of teamwork, and proved that people with mental retardation were strong and caring individuals who could be successful and independent. The Special Olympics has grown exponentially under the Shrivvers direction. When given the position of president of the Board of Directors of the Special Olympics, Sargent Shriver, again, reached out to other nations to bring together people of all nationalities to compete in the games. In 1985, athletes from 14 countries were represented at the Special Olympics Winter Games in Utah, and today, more than 1 million athletes participate in the Special Olympics in over 150 countries.

I hesitate to end my remarks with this short list of what Sargent Shriver has accomplished in his life. Unfortunately, I am not sure if there is anyway to accurately reflect the number of lives he has touched as our nation's ambassador, through Head Start and the Special Olympics, to name a few. But I am sure that even at the age of 88, he will continue to add accomplishments to this list of public service, and he will continue to touch the lives of people around the world.

OXYCONTIN CONTINUES TO DESTROY LIVES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, over the past year I have been writing to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Food and Drug Commissioner Mark McClellan urging their action to curb the continuing abuse of the powerful prescription painkiller, OxyContin. In many of those letters I have enclosed newspaper articles about another life destroyed by this drug.

Their inaction is perplexing. The death toll continues to rise and thousands of lives continue to be ruined because of the abuse of this drug. When will they do something to stop this tragedy?

I want to submit the letters I have been sending to Secretary Thompson and Commissioner McClellan over the past six months.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,

Washington, DC, March 28, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave. SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: In December 2001, the Commerce-Justice-State and the Judiciary appropriations subcommittee held a hearing on the illegal diversion of the prescription drug OxyContin, a pain-killing Schedule II narcotic manufactured by Purdue Pharma L.P. One of the witnesses, the father of recovering OxyContin addict, told a gripping story of the devastating impact the drug has had on his family and his son, who was in his early 20s. He proudly told the committee how his son had just finished rehab and had kicked his addiction. Sadly, a few months after appearing before the subcommittee, the son died as a result of abusing the drug.

When used properly, OxyContin is considered a wonder drug, especially for the terminally ill cancer patients. I know what it is like to see people suffer from cancer. Both my mother and father died of cancer. I can remember my mother constantly asking the nurses for more morphine but being told she couldn't have any more. My mother was in a great deal of pain. OxyContin, if it had been available when she was dying, probably would have made her a lot more comfortable at the end.

When used illegally, however, OxyContin destroys families and communities. It also can lead to death. This powerful painkiller has increasingly become a drug of choice for people who choose to abuse it by chewing it or grinding it up. By disabling the time release mechanism in OxyContin, abusers get a heroin-like high.

Initially, cases of abuse and illegal diversion occurred primarily in poor, rural communities in Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio. Abuse is no longer limited to Appalachia. The drug has found its way to urban areas and there are now reports of widespread abuse as far away as Arizona. Florida, I am told, has been hit extremely hard.

Several pharmacies in my congressional District have been robbed at gun point in recent months for OxyContin. No money was taken; the robbers only demanded the drug. Earlier this month, a prominent defense lawyer in northern Virginia who twice served as a local prosecutor in Prince William County

pleased guilty to Federal drug charges linked to a large-scale investigation into the illegal distribution of OxyContin and other painkillers.

Communities where the illegal drug has taken hold are being completely destroyed. I am told there is one county in southwest Virginia where no one isn't either using the drug, knows someone using the drug or been the victim of a crime by someone needing the drug.

When a professional baseball player recently died after taking the dietary supplement ephedra, your agency immediately issued fact sheets regarding potential serious risks of dietary supplements containing ephedra. You were even quoted as cautioning all Americans about using dietary supplements that contain ephedra.

According to fact sheets produced by the FDA, two deaths, four heart attacks nine strokes and five psychiatric cases involving ephedra have been reported. More than 240 people have died from the abuse of OxyContin and countless numbers of families and communities have been torn apart by this drug.

Your agency has done a good job educating the public about the dangers of ephedra and other dietary supplements. I urge you to initiate a similar public information campaign about the dangers of abusing OxyContin.

I have previously written to your department asking for a review of the marketing of OxyContin and its classification for treatment of moderate to severe pain. The Food and Drug Administration did change the warning label on OxyContin but more needs to be done. The drug should not be marketed to treat moderate pain. I urge you to no longer allow OxyContin to be prescribed for moderate pain.

Too many people have died, too many families have suffered and too many communities have been devastated by the improper use of this drug.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce-
Justice-State and the Judiciary.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: I want to share two newspaper articles about OxyContin that I came across since our meeting Thursday. One is from a paper in my District; the other is from a paper in Florida. Both are very troubling.

I trust you will give this issue the attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON:

As a follow up to my March 28 letter on OxyContin, I want to share with two recent newspaper articles that I recently came across. One is from a paper in my District; the other is from a paper in Florida. Both are extremely troubling.

OxyContin, when used properly, is a wonder drug. When abused, it is destroying families and communities.

Please look at this issue.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: Here's another news article from my District and another death. I am waiting to hear what you are going to do.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: I want to share with you two news articles I recently came across concerning the marketing of OxyContin. The articles stem from the investigation undertaken in 2001 by the Florida Attorney General. Several sensitive company documents were initially sealed but two Florida papers have successfully sued to make the information public. I have highlighted some extremely troubling sections in the articles.

Please take action.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., April 30, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: I want to be sure you saw this letter by Pennsylvania State Senator LISA BOSCOLA. This is tragic.

The FDA needs to address this issue.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., May 13, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: The attached article ran in a newspaper in my District on Monday. Please step in and do something to prevent OxyContin from being allowed to be prescribed for moderate pain. The drug is destroying communities, families and careers.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., May 13, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The attached article ran in a newspaper in my District on Monday.

The FDA needs to step in and do something. OxyContin should not be allowed to be prescribed for moderate pain. Too many families, communities and careers are being destroyed.

Please take some action.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., May 21, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: Enclosed is another news story from my District and another death.

I am waiting to hear what FDA is going to do.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed article is from today's Washington Post. When are you going to take some action? Please do something.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: See the enclosed article from today's Post.

You have to do something before things get worse.

When a professional baseball player died after taking the dietary supplement ephedra, your agency took immediate action to warn the public about the dangers of taking such supplements. Sadly, the same cannot be said when it comes to your agency's efforts on OxyContin.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed article from today's Post speaks for itself.

Please take some action. What are you waiting for.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed brief was in today's Post. You have to do something. What more evidence do you need that there is a problem?

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave. SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: I wanted you to see this brief in today's Post. As you can see the OxyContin problem has no boundaries.

Thank you for your response to my earlier letters. I hope we can come up with some solutions.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave. SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: The enclosed article
describes another tragic account of
OxyContin abuse.

How many more stories do we have to read
about this problem before you take more ac-
tion?

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed article
describes another tragic account of
OxyContin abuse.

How many more stories do we have to read
about this problem before action is taken?

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE CIVIC LEADERSHIP OF ROBERT SIDNEY AND GAIL PHELAN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in
honor of Robert Sidney and Gail Phelan, fine
public servants who have dedicated them-
selves throughout their lives as loyal citizens
to our community.

The couple married in 1958, months after
Gail had been crowned Miss Trenton. They
are members of the 1st United Methodist
Church of Trenton and the proud parents of
Robert Sidney Phelan, Jr., Paul Edmund
Phelan, and Mary LeAnn Phelan. Robert and
Gail also have three grandchildren and two
step-grandchildren.

Robert operated the family business, a Ford
automobile dealership, for 50 years, before
selling it. He has since started a smaller inde-
pendent dealership. In 1963, Robert became
the acting Postmaster while continuing to run
his auto dealership. He also served in the
Tennessee National Guard, from which he re-
tired as a First Lieutenant. With the help of
U.S. Senator Jim Sasser, Robert was instru-
mental in establishing a new National Guard
Armory in 1991.

He has served as Exalted Ruler of the Tren-
ton Elks Lodge and President of the Trenton
Chamber of Commerce. Robert also served
on the Trenton Rotary Club, the Gibson Coun-
ty Election Commission, the Trenton Housing
Authority Board and the Trenton Industrial
Board. He served on the board of Citizen
State Bank, spending some of that tenure as
Chairman. Robert worked diligently to form
Citizen City and County Bank, where he now
serves as Chairman of the Board.

The Phelans have always been devoted to
the Democratic Party on local, state and na-
tional levels, including involvement with gen-
erations of Tennessee governors, Members of
Congress and Vice President Al Gore. Their
son Paul served for 10 years as a State Rep-
resentative.

The family was instrumental in the formation
of the Trenton Special School District and
years later helped replace the aging school
building with a new high school. Believing that
Gibson County could support a satellite com-
munity college, Robert and Gail also helped
raise money to fund Dyersburg State Commu-
nity College in Trenton.

Gail has dedicated much of her life to the
education of her children and others in our
community. She has always been very in-
volved in school parent organizations and
takes an active role in making our schools bet-
ter, including beautiful murals in school hall-
ways.

Gail has not limited her helpful involvement
to working with children, however. A cancer
survivor, she has been an active participant in
Relay for Life efforts of the American Cancer
Society and has helped counsel others who
are also battling cancer, using her own experi-
ences to help comfort those around her.

Mr. Speaker, please join Robert and Gail's
friends and family as we recognize their ded-
ication and service to our community.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR DAVID PENDERGRASS OF SAND CITY, CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great
honor and pleasure that I am able to rise
today to recognize Mayor David Pendergrass,
a dedicated public servant of Sand City, Cali-
fornia. Mayor Pendergrass has served Sand
City for 25 years, where throughout his tenure
as a Mayor-Councilmember, Mayor
Pendergrass has distinguished himself as a
strong leader.

Under Mayor Pendergrass' leadership, the
City of Sand City has been enhanced in many
different ways. He has overseen the establish-
ment of an active redevelopment program and
agency, the organization of a modern city gov-
ernment with a City Administrator-Council ad-
ministrative structure, and maintained an on-
going forum to receive and respond to citi-
zens' concerns. Furthermore, Mayor
Pendergrass has been able to keep Sand
City's focus on its primary goals with diplo-
macy, patience, and consideration.

Mayor Pendergrass' committed public ser-
vice has improved the quality of life at Sand
City, California. He has made great contribu-
tions, and his lifelong dedication to public
service is commendable. His achievements
are truly honorable, and I along with the City
of Sand City, honor this great man.

WRITING BY VICKI WILSON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored
to share with my colleagues this editorial writ-
ten by my courageous friend Vicki Wilson. In
it she describes her very personal story about
her pregnancy and a procedure that was re-

quired to save her life. As Vicki rightly points
out, the ban on so-called "partial birth abor-
tion" prevents women—along with their fami-
lies and doctors—from making private deci-
sions about saving their own lives and pro-
tecting their right to future pregnancies.

A short while ago, the House debated the
so-called "Partial Birth Abortion" ban. Several
members who supported the ban tried to deny
Vicki's story.

Those Members didn't know what they were
talking about. Here is the truth as printed in
the San Jose Mercury News.

[From the San Jose Mercury News]

HEARTBREAK AND A CHOICE: I HAD AN
ABORTION AT EIGHT MONTHS

(By Vicki Wilson)

The right to end a pregnancy is frighten-
ingly precarious, something I didn't under-
stand until I had an abortion at eight
months. The new abortion ban covers what is
not actually a recognized medical procedure;
"partial birth" was coined by the anti-choice
lobby to rile public sensibilities and distort
the truth.

At 36 weeks of pregnancy, an ultra-sound
showed what all my previous parental test-
ing failed to detect—an encephalocele. Two-
thirds of my daughter's brain had formed
outside her skull. What felt to be strong, big,
healthy baby movements were in fact sei-
zures.

My doctor sent me to several specialists in
a desperate attempt to find a way to save
her. Everyone agreed she would not survive
outside my body. As the pregnancy pro-
gressed before I went into labor, she would
probably die from the increased compression
of her brain.

Our doctors explained our options. Let
"nature take its course." But how could I let
my daughter suffer the ongoing seizures?
Second: Abortion. My God! I thought. Here I
am at the end of a planned and very much
wanted pregnancy: Her name is Abigail. How
can one even utter the word "abortion" now?
Despite being a nurse, I'd never heard of any
abortion in the eighth month. I asked about
a Caesarean section. Doctors perform C-sec-
tions only to save babies lives. Mine couldn't
be saved so they didn't want to risk the pos-
sibility of hurting my future fertility. It was
a risk I wasn't willing to take either.

We agonized over our options, which
doesn't convey the heartbreak and rage we
felt. It was hard even to think of these
"choices." I wanted my daughter to be born
with a brain—period. We decided to make
our choice based on what was best for Abi-
gail.

As health-care professionals, my husband
and I understood the medical risks of each
alternative. We understood that it wasn't "is
she going to die"—a higher power had de-
cided that—but "how?" To this day, I thank
God that this decision, at least, was ours.

I continue to battle the anti-choice hard-
liner machine from banning the very proce-
dure that saved my health and ended Abi-
gail's suffering. When will politicians under-
stand: The decision about terminating a
pregnancy should be between women, their
family and their doctors—not politicians.
While I was struggling with the most
wrenching choice I have ever made, it never
occurred to me to confer with a lawyer or a
judge or a politician.

Those opposed to abortion for any reason
declare that women are selfishly choosing to
end their pregnancies late. They deny med-
ical necessity; they'd rather see Abigail suf-
fer and me lose my fertility than allow us to
choose the most decent path for our family.

They state that Americans are opposed to their politically motivated "partial birth" abortions. They don't acknowledge that Americans believe the choice should remain with my family.

Almost nine years have passed since we lost Abigail, and not a day passes that I don't think of her. In my heart I know I did the right thing for me and my family.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON CONFERENCE REPORT ON FY 2004 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the final version of this legislation continues our shared bipartisan commitment to boost the income for all of our military personnel with a 4.15-percent average increase in base pay. This is an important testament to the brave men and women who risk their lives to defend America's freedom.

In addition, this conference report extends several special pay provisions and bonuses for active duty personnel through December 31, 2004. It reduces the average amount of housing expenses paid by service members from 7.5 percent to 3.5 percent in FY 2004 and eliminates the out-of-pocket expense completely by FY 2005. It increases the family separation allowance for service members with dependents, worldwide, from \$100 per month to \$250 per month for the period beginning October 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2004. Finally, it increases the rate of special pay for those subject to hostile fire and imminent danger, worldwide from \$150 per month to \$225 per month for the period beginning October 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004.

While I am not satisfied with the provisions in this conference report regarding concurrent receipt for military retirees, it does provide some, overdue redress for this out-of-date policy.

But on balance, I am opposing this final conference report because I fundamentally disagree with key aspects of its policy prescriptions and prescriptions. On balance, it will make America less safe in an increasingly unstable world.

First and most importantly, the growing reliance upon nuclear weapons that this legislation encourages makes our nation and the world less safe, not more so. Accordingly, I strongly disagree with the funding in this bill to continue work on high yield, burrowing nuclear "bunker-busters" that target underground military facilities or arsenals. I am equally opposed to the language in this bill that lifts the ban on research leading to low yield "mini-nuclear weapons" of 5 kilotons or less.

Last April, I sent a letter to President Bush that was co-signed by 34 of my colleagues to convey our grave concern that he is weakening long-standing U.S. policy governing the use of nuclear as opposed to conventional weapons. I regret that we have never received a substantive reply from the President. That congressional action coupled with the examples I've cited and other provisions in this conference report further undermine the U.S. non-proliferation efforts of Republican and Democratic Presidents alike and heighten growing international fear that Bush Administration's policies are fueling a new nuclear arms race.

Second, I am opposed to the blanket exemptions from our nation's environmental protection laws for the Pentagon in this bill. There is no convincing evidence that environmental laws like the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act hinder our military's capacity to defend our nation.

But you don't have to take my word for it. Former EPA Administrator, Christine Whitman, testified to the Congress that she does not "believe that there is a training mission anywhere in the country that is being held up or not taking place because of environmental protection." Furthermore, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) has reported to the Congress that the Pentagon has failed to produce any evidence that environmental laws have significantly affected our military readiness.

I do not think the Pentagon or any other federal agency should be above the law. Moreover, current law already allows case-by-case environmental exemptions for the Pentagon, when they are determined to be in the national interest.

Finally, this conference report also contains provisions that will be very harmful to hundreds of thousands of dedicated civilian men and women who make our Defense Department work.

Last year saw the largest government reorganization in more than 3 decades with the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, affecting 170,000 federal employees. Following extensive congressional debate, Secretary Ridge was granted authority to establish a more flexible that attempted to protect basic worker rights.

But this legislation will give Defense Secretary Rumsfeld broad authority to rollback worker protections for hundreds of thousands of Pentagon employees. There will be nothing to prevent agency managers from abusing their power for political advancement or engaging in discriminatory practices. Allowing managers the ability to waive such protections under the guise of national security and the need for greater flexibility is wrong. It will not make us safer.

Thanks to this legislation, Secretary Rumsfeld will be able to do away with the current personnel system in the Pentagon. I am unwilling to give the Bush Administration a blank check to undo, in whole or in part, many of the civil service laws and protections that have been in place for nearly a century to safeguard against the return of an unfair patronage system.

I want to be very clear. I support a strong national defense. I support modernizing our military. I support giving our troops the resources and training they need to keep our nation secure. But I cannot support this conference report which contains provisions that will take our military backwards, rather than forwards. I cannot support legislation that will re-ignite a global nuclear arms race, even as our troops in Iraq and elsewhere risk their lives every day to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. I cannot support legislation that takes away the rights of hundreds of thousands of hard-working Pentagon employees. Finally, I cannot support legislation that disingenuously claims that stripping away important environmental protections here at home will somehow bolster our national security.

IN MEMORY OF KESH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, his full name was Nayaran Dilip Keshavan Ayyangar, but everyone simply knew him as Kesh. Kesh was a journalist, a Hill staffer, a community activist and a friend to anyone who cared passionately about the political, economic and cultural relationship between his adopted country, the United States, and his native country, India.

Last Thursday, November 13th, Kesh was doing what he had done for the past 2 decades. He was advocating that India's interests were in confluence with the United States'. He had just finished taping an appearance on Lou Dobbs's Moneyline on CNN. Ten minutes after leaving the studio, Kesh was dead of a massive heart attack at the young age of 53.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I know first hand the gravity of the loss both countries have suffered. Not only was Kesh's knowledge of U.S. India relations comprehensive, the breadth and depth of his contacts, here in Washington and back in Delhi, was truly amazing.

A review of Kesh's career will give our colleagues an idea of why Kesh was such a critical player in the U.S. India dialogue. For the past 2 years Kesh served as President of the New York City Chapter of the Indian American Forum for Political Education. Prior to that he was the Executive Director of the India Caucus here in this body. And for more than 15 years before coming to Capitol Hill, Kesh was a distinguished journalist, serving as Editor in Chief of the India Post, as the Washington Bureau Chief of the Indian American, as a reporter for the Washington Times and as the Chief Diplomatic Correspondent for the New York City Tribune. Kesh was educated here in the U.S. at the School of Journalism at Syracuse University and also in India at Osmanis University in Hyderabad, where he obtained a journalism degree, and at Andhra University, where he was awarded a degree in pharmacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain all members of this body join me in expressing our condolences to his father, a former head of the Indian Geological Survey, his sister, and his many friends, both here in the United States and back in India. We have all lost a devoted public advocate. Kesh's loss will be felt for many years.

HONORING SARGENT SHRIVER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication, spirit, and accomplishments of my good friend Sargent Shriver who celebrated his 88th birthday last week. I met Sarge while I was in Peace Corps Training in Questa, New Mexico in 1963. He was a hero figure: handsome, smart, engaging, and the President's brother-in-law. We were all so proud of being chosen to be in one of the

early waves of the Peace Corps. President John F. Kennedy asked our nation's citizens to "ask not what this country could do for you, but what you can do for your country." Sargent Shriver was a living demonstration of the way to serve and the spirit it took to launch the new and bold idea of the Peace Corps.

Peace Corps began under Sargent Shriver's directorship on March 1, 1961. Today, over 170,000 Americans, including six members of Congress, have served in 136 countries. Many volunteers who served under Sargent Shriver have become Ambassadors, Presidents of Universities, and Chairmen of major corporations.

Sargent Shriver began his public service in the United States Navy where he earned the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Following his naval career, Sargent Shriver dedicated himself to the societal problems facing the youth of the country—organizing the National Conference on Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency in Washington and serving as the President of the Chicago Board of Education. He continued to foster quality social programming through the creation of VISTA, Head Start, Community Action, Foster Grandparents, Job Corps, Legal Services, Indian and Migrant Opportunities and Neighborhood Health Services. In addition, Sargent Shriver has served on the Board of many humanitarian organizations, including as President of the Special Olympics.

Sargent Shriver's dedication to living his ideals, and making them a reality has inspired subsequent generations to do the same. His invaluable contributions to the formation and longevity of the Peace Corps has brought hope to people around the world and has educated generations of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, such as myself, in the necessity and value of public service. The Peace Corps continues to be a means for understanding the cultures, and languages of the world while recognizing the differences between different countries.

The vision of peace that Director Shriver has committed so much time and energy to has only become more important during this time of war. Director Shriver once wisely said, "I say what our nation needs now is a call to peace and service—peace and service on a scale we have scarcely begun to imagine." Mr. Speaker, today I honor Sargent Shriver and wish him the very best in the coming year.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOB SINCLAIR TO SAVING LIVES IN TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a tireless public servant, Mr. Bob Sinclair. The service he has provided over the years through the Henry County Ambulance Service has touched—and saved—many lives in our community.

Mr. Sinclair is a decorated veteran of World War II and a former employee of the Tennessee Valley Authority, but it is his dedicated work for the Henry County Ambulance Service that makes him stand out among the rest.

He started his service on January 1, 1969, the first day of operation for the ambulance service, which was one of the first countywide ambulance services in Tennessee to also offer an emergency medical technician training program. Sinclair volunteered for rotating shifts so his workers could get the training they needed to become paramedics. The service was originally based in the Paris Fire Department, and hearses purchased from the Ridgeway Morticians were used as ambulances.

Mr. Sinclair remained diligent, however, and helped the ambulance service grow, becoming director in 1970 and remaining there until 1985, when the service was assigned to the Henry County Medical Center. Mr. Sinclair is now a member the HCMC Board of Trustees and has also been a longtime member of the Henry County Commission.

Mr. Sinclair continued to give his time and devotion to the Henry County Ambulance Service and overcame many obstacles, such as funding and vehicle replacement issues. He helped make the ambulance service what it is today.

Time and time again, Mr. Sinclair has given his time and dedication to his community, and this will continue to be appreciated. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the accomplishments and dedication of a fine leader, Mr. Bob Sinclair.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on September 3, 2003. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 460, 461 and 462. On September 4, 2003, I missed rollcall vote 467 and would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "METROPOLITAN CONGESTION RELIEF ACT"

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation that strengthens our commitments to the public and their local decision-makers in both urbanized and rural areas of this nation.

The "Metropolitan Congestion Relief Act" proposes a number of simple adjustments to the TEA-21 law, which as you know is now under discussion in the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee. Two days ago, the leaders of the Committee introduced legislation setting forth a six-year reauthorization plan for TEA-21, legislation that I am proud to cosponsor.

My legislation compliments the Committee legislation and proposes key adjustments to current congestion-related programs. This legislation would ensure that our national policy

more fully engages and supports local elected leaders and the communities they represent. We need to engage the public and local decision-makers to address the nation's many transportation challenges.

The proposals in this legislation include two initiatives that follow the basic thrust of the Committee's TEA-21 renewal package.

First, this legislation invests more in our local decision-makers, those who now lead our nation's very important metropolitan economies and those in non-urbanized areas. Secondly, it further strengthens the partnership set forth in the 1991 ISTEA law that began devolving resources and decision-making to the nation's larger metropolitan areas. Finally, this legislation continues to place more responsibility where it belongs, with local community leaders and metropolitan planning organizations. These are the entities most challenged by pressing transportation needs, be it traffic congestion, air quality degradation or the rising demands of global competition.

These selected reforms and adjustments will yield results for all areas of our states. In those provisions targeted to metropolitan areas, all taxpayers and areas will benefit as these additional commitments will improve the performance of our existing assets and help us use available transportation dollars more efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, let me talk for a minute about the key features of this legislation and what it does and does not do.

First, it does not affect the allocation of resources from any of TEA-21's formula highway programs to the states, which is to say that it is policy neutral on the donor/donee issue. For the record, I am one member who has an interest in seeing more equity among the states, and this legislation does not disrupt any of these important efforts.

Second, the law this legislation amends is the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. As we make progress on equity among the states, we should also make some greater strides in providing some modest assurances of equity to local areas and local taxpayers within our states. Here in this chamber and in the Transportation Committee we talk often about "fair share" among the states, and yet there is nothing in current law that addresses how equity is assured at the sub-state level.

Let me illustrate this point further from the perspective of my district and the Dallas-Fort Worth region. As each new fiscal year arrived under TEA-21, local decision-makers in my region were certain that they would determine the fate of about 2½ cents of every highway formula dollar coming to the State of Texas. This is an inadequate commitment to a region that accounts for nearly one out of every five Texans and, in recent years, more than one out of every three new jobs in the State. By the donor/donee yardstick, this amounts to my local decision-makers having the certainty and direct control over about 10–12 cents on every federal highway dollar that is generated from local taxpayers and returned to the state. This is simply inequitable and can no longer be justified.

My legislation proposes to deliver more certainty to all areas of the state, both large and small, helping make some modest gains in ensuring more funding equity for the public in their local areas.

The legislation directs that Surface Transportation Funds provided to each of the states,

either through the STP or indirectly through the unprogrammed share of the Minimum Guarantee program, be directed to local areas, following existing law using the fair share distribution to urbanized and non-urbanized areas. All areas within the states will have more funding certainty as a result.

Third, the Metropolitan Congestion Relief Act enhances our federal surface transportation policies by enlisting local decision-makers and their substantial transportation assets under their control more fully into the TEA-21 partnership.

In addition to directing more STP and Minimum Guarantee resources to metropolitan planning organizations and other local areas under ongoing state-directed programs, the legislation specifically directs states to work more directly with local decision-makers, particularly in the larger urban areas, in deciding on investments in the National Highway System. This is a critical asset for all of us and one where local governments either own a share of these facilities or where locally-owned facilities are substantially affected by NHS facility investments.

Let me provide some additional background on this and related points. One of the weaknesses of the current Federal policy is that it relies too heavily on overburdened State transportation agencies. Overall, States own the smallest share of the Nation's transportation facilities relative to local governments and yet are given direct control over an overwhelming share of Federal transportation dollars. On average, for each highway dollar that a State receives, only six percent is guaranteed to reach local decision-makers, those in metropolitan areas of 200,000 or more where more than one out of every two Americans live.

Let me explain further. Presently, local governments—cities, towns and counties—directly or indirectly through regional agencies own and/or operate more than three-quarters of the Nation's roads and streets, about one-half of the Nation's bridges, more than ninety percent of all transit systems and about the same share of the Nation's airports, most of the train stations, port facilities, traffic signals, public parking structures, sidewalks and trails, and so on. Let us not forget that 63 percent of urban area highways in the Federal Aid System, which includes those facilities generally eligible under Federal TEA-21 programs, are owned by local governments. Yet, existing policy directs virtually all of the resources to State highway and transportation departments.

In aviation, Congress rightly directs resources to the agencies, be it the State, region or local government who own and operate airports. In transit, Congress rightly directs resources to the level of government who delivers these services. In flood control, the State, region, or local agency responsible for the improvements receives the funding. And so on.

As this Congress seeks to address the burdens of congestion the need for smarter and more balanced transportation investments to give taxpayers more for their dollars, we must recognize that we have reached the point where it is impossible to achieve these outcomes without more fully involving our local transportation partners. This means bringing local elected officials—mayors, city council members, county executives and commissions, and others—more fully into this partner-

ship. This legislation makes some modest adjustments and empowers these critical officials in the transportation partnership.

Finally, this legislation specifically addresses the needs of local areas with the most air quality and congestion problems. It does so by directing States to allocate Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (CMAQ) funds to local areas that are in non-attainment or maintenance of applicable national ambient air quality standards. Specifically, it requires States to pass these funds to local areas on a fair share basis where metropolitan planning organizations are in place. Simply put, States earn CMAQ funds based on local air problems and the legislation makes sure that funds are passed through to these areas. Recently, this chamber debated the extension of the compliance deadlines in some Texas cities and other places, all the while my own State of Texas had piled up more than \$270 million in unspent CMAQ funds that could have helped improve air quality in my area and others in the State. This provision will make sure that the local areas that carry these requirements under Federal law are certain to receive their fair share of the resources that are provided.

There are also two new initiatives in the legislation that address congestion. One is a new \$2 billion annual formula program aimed at the Nation's most congested metropolitan markets, as analyzed by the Texas Transportation Institute. This program will target resources to areas of the Nation with clear congestion needs. The other program will provide modest resources of \$500 million annually to local governments to support incident management programs.

Let me speak to the need for these targeted programs. Every taxpayer and every community in our States benefits if we make some selected investments that improve the performance of our Nation's most productive economic centers. All of our economic data shows that our metropolitan areas are truly the economic engines of our State economies and help drive overall U.S. economic growth. They now account for the overwhelming and disproportionate share of the Nation's new jobs, personal income and total economic output. This legislation speaks directly to the pressing needs of these city and county metropolitan areas by investing immediately in congestion relief strategies and programs that will pay substantial dividends to the economic bottom lines of our State and the Federal Government. These initiatives, coupled with other provisions in this legislation, will help us extract more economic output from these areas.

This investment in our regional economic engines will also position our Nation more favorably in the global competition of world trade. For instance, consider my own district, the Dallas Metro area, not including the adjoining Fort Worth Metro area. The Dallas Metro area produced more goods and services—about \$170 billion in 2001—than 29 States. This output exceeded that of many countries, such as Denmark or Hong Kong. This legislation is about recognizing the importance of the role local decision-makers play in steering these vital economic units and the value of tapping the vast range of our Nation's broadest asset base. In the end, our Federal policy needs to go beyond the Federal/State partnership of the 1950s that was built around the Interstate era. The 1991 ISTEA made

some strides to update our institutional arrangements, and this legislation builds on those improvements.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is nonpartisan. It represents an effort to establish a fair and equitable distribution of our Federal transportation dollars.

HONORING C. K. WILLIAMS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this week C. K. Williams was honored with the National Book Award in Poetry for his book "The Singing: Poems".

The National Book Award, established in 1950, has become one of the most significant literary prizes in the country and comes with a \$10,000 cash award. A creative writing professor at Princeton University since 1995, C. K. Williams has authored 14 books of poetry over his long and distinguished career and in 2000 he received the Pulitzer Prize in poetry for his work "Repair".

Charles Kenneth Williams was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1936. He started writing poetry at the age of 19 and has said that "Poetry didn't find me, in the cradle or anywhere else near it: I found it. I realized at some point—very late, it's always seemed—that I needed it, that it served a function for me—or someday would—however unclear that function may have been at first."

Mr. Speaker we all are very lucky that C. K. Williams found poetry and its clear to me that he has served a function to those of us who have had the pleasure to read his wonderful poetry. At times his poetry delves in to the dark areas of despair and our eventual mortality. As such his poetry is thought provoking, deeply moving, and at times extremely personal.

Again, I congratulate Mr. Williams on his award, and I deeply thank him for the contributions he has made through his poetry to enrich our society. C. K. Williams continues in the long great tradition of other New Jersey poets such as Walt Whitman, William Carlos Williams, Alan Ginsburg, and Robert Pinsky, and he is certainly one of the best poets that New Jersey has to offer today. And as the National Book Selection Committee, The Pulitzer Committee, and other juries make clear, C. K. Williams is one of the best. I am so pleased to have a poet of such talent and mettle both writing and teaching in my district.

Mr. Speaker I would like to include in the RECORD a copy of the title poem of C. K. Williams's award winning book, which is entitled *The Singing*.

THE SINGING

I was walking home down a hill near our house on a balmy afternoon under the blossoms
Of the pear trees that go flamboyantly mad here every spring with their burgeoning forth
When a young man turned in from a corner singing no it was more of a cadenced shouting
Most of which I couldn't catch I thought because the young man was black speaking black
It didn't matter I could tell he was making his song up which pleased me he was nice-looking

Husky dressed in some style of big pants obviously full of himself hence his lyrical flowing over

We went along in the same direction then he noticed me there almost beside him and "Big"

He shouted-sang "Big" and I thought how droll to have my height incorporated in his song

So I smiled but the face of the young man showed nothing he looked in fact pointedly away

And his song changed "I'm not a nice person" he chanted "I'm not I'm not a nice person"

No menace was meant I gathered no particular threat but he did want to be certain I knew

That if my smile implied I conceived of anything like concord between us I should forget it

That's all nothing else happened his song became indecipherable to me again he arrived

Where he was going to a house where a girl in braids waited for him on the porch that was all

No one saw no one heard all the unasked and unanswered questions were left where they were

It occurred to me to sing back "I'm not a nice person either" but I couldn't come up with a tune

Besides I wouldn't have meant it nor he have believed it both of us knew just where we were

In the duet we composed the equation we made the conventions to which we were condemned

Sometimes it feels even when no one is there that someone something is watching and listening

Someone to rectify redo remake this time again though no one saw nor heard no one was there

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION ON JUÁREZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this bipartisan resolution with my colleagues Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. REYES, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Ms. CAPITO. We are deeply concerned about the murders and violence against women that has occurred in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. Since 1993 over 300 women have disappeared from this area. Oftentimes their mutilated bodies are found in the abandoned or desert areas. This resolution expresses our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of the victims, and encourages increased U.S. involvement in bringing an end to these heinous crimes that for the most part have gone unsolved.

SMALL BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY VENUE RELIEF ACT

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, the recent bankruptcy of a large chemical company in Lou-

isiana has alerted me to the difficulties that small businesses can face in bankruptcy proceedings. In the wake of this chemical company's bankruptcy, a number of small businesses in Louisiana found themselves defendants in preferential payment lawsuits brought by the bankruptcy trustee. Many of these companies were shocked that they would be accused of receiving preferential payments when they had had a long history of consistent business dealings with the chemical company. Not only were these businesses surprised by the lawsuits, but they were dismayed that they were forced to defend these lawsuits in Delaware. The burden of hiring an attorney in Louisiana and Delaware was significant and a number of these small businesses were forced to settle these meritless lawsuits to avoid the costs associated with a legal defense.

I believe that we are placing these small businesses in an unacceptable position. Asking small businesses to pay several thousand dollars in legal fees or settlement fees is a significant burden for many of these businesses. It appears that in a number of cases, bankruptcy trustees realize the leverage they have on these small businesses and exploit this leverage. It costs little for the trustees to file suit against these small businesses and then the trustees have the luxury of adjudicating the lawsuits in the State they are working in. Authorizing penalties for frivolous lawsuits and changing the venue for preferential payments cases that fall below a meager \$5,000 threshold has done little to improve the situation for small businesses. I believe that we must force bankruptcy trustees to take a harder look at the merits of these preferential payments cases and we need to allow small businesses the courtesy of defending these lawsuits in the State in which they reside.

For this reason, I have introduced the "Small Business Bankruptcy Venue Relief Act." This legislation will allow small businesses of under 25 full-time employees to defend preferential payments claims in the State where they reside. In addition to lowering legal costs for these small businesses, this legislation will force bankruptcy trustees to give greater consideration to the merits of preferential payment claims against small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that members will consider the plight of small businesses and co-sponsor the "Small Business Bankruptcy Venue Relief Act."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on July 8, 2003. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 334 and "yea" on rollcall Nos. votes 335 and 336. On July 10, 2003, I was absent from this Chamber for a journal vote No. and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 346.

On July 14, 2003, I was absent from this Chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted

"yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 354, 355, 358 and 359 and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 356. I was also absent from this Chamber on July 17, 2003, and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 387. Furthermore, on July 18, 2003, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 396 and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 397.

On July 21, 2003, I was absent from this Chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 398, 399 and 400. I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on July 24, 2003 and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 441. I missed rollcall vote No. 452 on July 25, 2003, and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN RECOGNITION OF BANQUET HONORING THE HEROES OF THE MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA BUS BOYCOTT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Montgomery, Alabama Transportation Coalition in recognizing the heroes of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.

On December 4, 2003, the Coalition will hold its annual awards dinner, and the theme for this year's banquet is "Reclaiming the Dream." They have chosen this occasion to honor the heroes of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. These heroes are former Pastor Robert Graetz, Mrs. Inez Jessie Baskin, Mrs. Johnnie Carr, Mrs. Daisy Childrey, Mrs. Thelma Glass, Mrs. Hazel Gregory, Mrs. Vera Harris, Mr. Bobby Jackson, Mrs. Zecoz Williams, and posthumously, Mrs. Aurelia Browder, Mrs. Virginia Durr and Mr. Eddie Posey.

Today, it may be difficult for some to recognize the importance of what these individuals did because, thankfully, times have changed. But, the change has come about because of their actions. They truly are heroes, and I salute each of them.

INTRODUCING THE AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE AND TAX SHELTERS ACT

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation to stop the unethical, and in certain cases, criminal conduct by some of our Nation's most respected accounting firms that market abusive tax shelters under the guise of "non-audit services" to the public companies whose books they audit—in effect auditing their own work. The Auditor Independence and Tax Shelters Act, cosponsored by Representatives MARK FOLEY, BART STUPAK, DAVE CAMP, and

TOM LANTOS, will eliminate this irreconcilable conflict of interest that fuels the engine of an ever-expanding tax shelter industry.

Ongoing Senate hearings and the General Accounting Office investigations reveal that tax revenue lost from known shelters totaled \$33 billion over the past decade, and that losses from undetected shelters could total another \$52 billion. Last year, for example, an abusive tax shelter known as "Slapshot" was expected to produce tax breaks exceeding \$120 million for Enron. It was based on a \$1 billion loan and concealed by a highly intricate combination of loans and stock transactions occurring within minutes of each other that were designed to prevent tax regulators and authorities from discovering what really happened.

As William McDonough, Chairman of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board recently said, major accounting firms have suffered a "complete ethical collapse." Chairman McDonough added during recent testimony before Congress that the willingness to sell faulty tax shelters and hide them from the IRS is "immensely and immorally repugnant." Moreover, David Clay Johnston of the New York Times and author of *Perfectly Legal*, reports that tax avoidance among corporations and upper-income individuals is far outstripping the audit capacity of the IRS. He estimates that a \$113 billion gap exists between what corporations should be paying and what they actually pay. Clearly, the burden of this gap in tax receipts is being shouldered by middle-class families.

In response to this costly and unethical practice, our legislation prohibits auditors from providing those tax shelter services for which a significant purpose is the avoidance or evasion of federal income tax to the publicly traded corporations they audit. The bill also prohibits auditors from offering tax shelter services to the corporation's officers and directors. Additionally, guiding principles under this bill will clarify how audit committees decide whether the corporation's auditor may provide certain non-audit services to the corporation. If the audit committee finds that a proposed service would reasonably result in an impairment of the auditor's independence by violating one of these principles, the audit committee would be unable to approve the proposed service.

Under our legislation, auditors would still be able to market tax reduction strategies to other companies and individuals, but not to the companies that they are responsible for auditing. This is a common sense approach to protecting our investors and American middle-class families from the increasing cost and the expanding prevalence of tax shelters, which should be exposed for what they really are—unfair and unpatriotic corporate behavior, and which should be stopped once and for all.

COMMENDING LAFARGE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Lafarge Construction Materials on their exceptional contribution as a corporate member of the Golden community.

Lafarge West operates the Specification Aggregates Quarry on Colfax Avenue in Golden, Colorado. I am proud to serve Golden as their Congressman, especially after watching this tremendous effort put forth by all parties involved to create a win-win situation for Lafarge, the city of Golden, concerned environmental groups and, of course, the citizens of Jefferson County.

In fact, I recently received a letter from the mayor of Golden, Charles Baroch where he said, "Lafarge has for many years been a good neighbor, being very concerned about the impact of the mine and crushing plant on the neighborhood. Lafarge listens to citizens concerns and takes action to correct the problem. Most everyone in Golden is proud to have this business a part of Golden."

The partnership began when Lafarge realized it's basic need to increase the reserves of the quarry to serve the growing Denver market. A market, I hope, that will be even stronger soon with the passage of a new transportation re-authorization bill.

So, in the spirit of cooperation, Lafarge began a 2-year process of meeting with local citizens, businesses, community leaders and environmental groups to learn what concerns may be out there regarding a quarry expansion. In the end, after many presentations, many meetings and many late nights, they did find that win-win solution. Scott Gudahl put it simply when he said, "We kept addressing expectations and concerns until there were none left—and that's what you basically have in the final proposal."

That final proposal was an innovative land swap. The quarry will be able to expand by 60 acres and Jefferson County will receive more than 500 acres of added scenic open space. Even the quarry itself, once reclaimed, will be donated as additional open space for the enjoyment of Jefferson County citizens.

Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I that all too often, good honest businesses are painted with unfair labels by those who do not understand the process of making the roads and highways that keep our economy moving. I applaud the people at Lafarge for putting forth the extra effort not only to create a better company, but also create a better community. I am proud of their efforts and I am proud to represent their employees in this Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF HURTSBORO, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of Hurtsboro, Alabama, on its 125th anniversary of its incorporation on December 4, 2003.

Hurtsboro, Alabama, located in Russell County, Alabama, was originally station Number 4 on the Mobile and Girard Railroad. In 1857, Joel Hurt, Sr. came to the site of Hurtsboro and with a partner, William Marshall, bought land and established a sawmill by a creek now called Hurtsboro Creek. Mr. Hurt had moved from Eatonton, Georgia, to Olivet, Alabama, a thriving farm community about 3 miles from Hurtsboro. However, when Olivet was bypassed in the survey to the Mobile and Girard Railroad, Mr. Hurt moved to

the railroad site. In 1858, when the railroad reached the place, the mill company laid out off the town, with the mill in the center. It was called Hurtsville for the principal founder.

On November 5, 1878, a petition was filed with the Russell County Judge of Probate Simeon O'Neal by more than 20 of the male inhabitants of the town laying out the boundaries of the town and the name to be given if incorporated and requesting that an election be held for incorporation. Judge O'Neal then set the election for December 3, 1878, and on that day, no votes were cast against incorporation. Therefore, on December 4, 1878, Judge O'Neal made entry in the record that inhabitants of the town of Hurtsville were incorporated under the name of "Hurtsville" with such boundaries to extend one half mile in every direction from the present public cropping at the depot of the Mobile and Girard Railroad. On March 24, 1883, a petition was filed by more than 10 of the male inhabitants of Hurtsville that the name of the town be changed to Hurtsboro (to avoid confusion with the town of Huntsville, Alabama). An election was held on April 11, 1883, and based on the results, Russell County Judge of Probate Simeon O'Neal entered into the record that the town's name be changed to "Hurtsboro."

I congratulate Hurtsboro, Alabama, on its 125th anniversary of incorporation and join its residents in recognizing their proud history.

COMMENDING PENNINGTON ELEMENTARY IN WHEAT RIDGE

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add to the RECORD a story of true leadership and determination occurring in the very place that it should, our school system.

I recently had the honor of visiting Pennington Elementary, a small school located back home in my great Colorado district. Not only was I impressed by the moral this house of education puts forth to its visitors, I was amazed at the progress I learned of that these young minds are making and the dedication of their instructors and administrators.

Four years ago Pennington Elementary was considered to be the school to which no one wanted to send their children. The children in the community were known to be impolite and irresponsible. Now if you ask neighbors of this accomplished school about the little ones' demeanor in and out of the school setting, they will tell you the children are intelligent, delightful and always polite and courteous to those around them.

This school of only 248 students has risen to the top of the pile and now begins their day with a "Pennington Pledge" as a daily reminder of what they stand for; a good motto for any upcoming citizen. It reads:

We the students of Pennington agree to have a drug free school, a safe and orderly learning environment, to be big brothers and big sisters to any little student. As a responsible citizen I will follow the rules of Pennington.

Because the school has changed the outlook of the staff, community and parents, success is a regularly heard word within the walls

of Pennington Elementary. The school's standardized state test scores have risen from 28 percent proficient or better in 1998–1999 to 56.7 percent during the 2002–2003 school year and continue to rise. Their fourth grade reading scores alone have gone from 35 percent proficient or greater to 82 percent during the same span of time, gaining them the recognition for the largest, improvement in reading scores for the state of Colorado.

I would also like to make mention that Pennington has achieved these great strides by adopting a "no excuses attitude." The students and faculty of Pennington believe that there is no reason that their school should not be a school of excellence, and that very attitude is what has placed them as such in my eyes.

Pennington illustrates pride in education and excitement for the learning process. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such a school of excellence back home in my district. Pennington has truly shown that they are an excellent educational institution that strives daily to deliver on their goals and dedication to their children and the futures that await them. I am truly proud of the students, staff and community surrounding and supporting Pennington Elementary.

COMMEMORATING FIRST ANNI- VERSARY OF TERROR ATTACK ON MOUNT SCOPUS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I had the great opportunity to return to Israel during this past August. Every visit to Israel brings forth so many emotions, some happy, some sad, but always inspirational. My visit was approximately a year after one of the most senseless and brutal attacks that has taken place since the beginning of the so-called second Intifada. On July 31, 2002, a terrorist placed a bomb in the cafeteria at Hebrew University. Nine young people were killed and many more wounded. Of the nine, five were Americans. I mourn the loss of all innocent lives, but this particular attack stands out for two main reasons.

First, of course, the attack underscores the close relationship of Hebrew University to the United States. This goes beyond the tragic deaths of the five Americans. The fact that so many Americans were there and that so many are still going there to study underscores the close relationship between this university and the people of the United States. Thousands of Americans have studied at Hebrew University, particularly in their exceptional "year-abroad" program and in their graduate schools. Many are there still and many more will follow. Many scientists from Hebrew University are also recipients of research grants from the American government and American institutions. Their work has been and continues to be of the highest quality. Second, targeting Hebrew University for such an attack was truly heinous. Throughout its long and distinguished history, Hebrew University has reached out to students and scholars of all religions and races.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the "flagship" of Israeli universities, was first conceived in the 19th century against the back-

ground of discrimination and persecution in Europe. Jews were barred from higher education in Russia and Romania, and there were similar restrictions in many other countries. Also, there was an increasing demand from high school graduates in pre-state Israel for higher education.

The idea of a university in the Holy Land was proposed by Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president. Among those backing the idea and assisting in raising financial support for the future university was Albert Einstein. The university's foundation stones were dedicated on Mount Scopus overlooking Jerusalem in 1918. Even before the university officially opened its doors in 1925, there was an inaugural lecture given by Einstein in 1923.

From its core of three institutes in the exact sciences and Jewish studies, the university expanded rapidly to eventually include all areas of higher education—the social sciences, law, medicine, dental medicine, agriculture, social work and education. The War of Independence, with its division of Jerusalem, caused the loss of the Mt. Scopus campus to the university in 1948 and its subsequent dispersal to various sites in West Jerusalem.

After the Six-Day War of 1967 and the reunification of Jerusalem, the university returned to Mt. Scopus, which again became the main campus. Today the university operates from four campuses—three in Jerusalem and one in Rehovot and has a total enrollment of some 23,000 students and an academic staff of about 1,200.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is an institution of international renown and is a beacon of open inquiry and academic freedom in the Middle East. The key point is that the university is open to all, regardless of nationality, ethnic origin, religion or race. Its Rothberg International School hosts students from dozens of countries, and its Jewish National and University Library is an unparalleled research source used by scholars from around the world.

The following is a copy of a speech delivered by Menachem Magidor, President of the Hebrew University, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the attack on the school.

PRESIDENT MAGIDOR'S SPEECH AT THE CER- EMONY COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVER- SARY OF THE TERROR ATTACK ON MOUNT SCOPUS

Just one year ago, at exactly this moment, this was the scene of a ghastly event, a scene of broken glass, overturned tables, blood and the cries of the injured and dying.

"Desolation, devastation and destruction!"

One year has passed—the murdered have been laid to rest, and among the injured, there are those who have recovered fully, and there are those who will never return to their former selves. The blood has been washed away, the blackened walls have been repainted, students rush to classes, and young people gather at the new tables in the cafeteria, engaged in lively and friendly conversations.

Has life simply returned to the way it was before? Of course not, because of those who are no longer with us.

Because Marla Bennett and Benjamin Blustein will never continue on their marvelous journey of discovery of their roots and traditions;

Because David Gritz will never continue with his unique combination of philosophy, Jewish Studies and music;

Because David Diego Ladowski will never serve society and the country as he had as-

pired to, and to promote the peace in which he believed despite the forces of darkness exemplified by those who murdered him;

Because Revital Barashi will no longer share her pleasant manner with her colleagues in the corridors of the Faculty of Law;

Because Dina Carter will never continue with her dedicated work in the Library and Janis Ruth Coulter will never continue to devote herself to the University in America.

Because we will never again see the wonderful smile that lit up the face of Levina Shapira,

Because the intelligence and the wisdom which Daphna Spruch personified has gone and will never return.

And even those amongst us who were not here last year, or who arrived after the dreadful explosion, cannot return to being how they were before. Because we all understand that this University, which is so dear to us all, is hated by the forces of darkness, and that it was not by chance that the University was chosen as a target because we are Israeli or Jewish, but *dafka* because we are dedicated to openness and tolerance, because we are part of the free and enlightened world and the wicked spared no effort to strike at the University, *dafka* because our Campuses are oases of wisdom, of dialogue between people of different faiths and backgrounds, of different beliefs and religions.

And then, you realize that this Campus is part of the war zone in the war for the rebirth of the Jewish people in its land, part of the war zone in the war of the free world against the forces of hate, intolerance and tyranny.

The year that has passed has not been an easy one. Those who lost their dear ones have found it difficult to accept their loss; the wounded have fought to rebuild their lives again, but the emotional and physical scars will forever be with them.

The Hebrew University family gritted their teeth, and returned to the sacred work of research and teaching. We were faced with almost impossible decisions. The threats against this University, its principles and all that it represents haven't disappeared.

We have had to make painful compromises between security considerations and maintaining a free and dynamic Campus. The economic situation and the budgetary burdens have not made it any easier, but the year that has passed has proved to us all, as has happened so many times during the 78 years of the existence of the Hebrew University, that this living and growing tree, called the Hebrew University, is difficult to uproot.

Because the University's existence draws its life's breath from the never-ending struggle for truth; because it aspires to help the advancement of humanity; because it is rooted deep in the essence of our traditions while its branches stretch forth to the winds of tolerance, openness and respect for one another; because despite the forces of darkness that tried to destroy it, it has not lost its aspirations for peace.

May the memory of the nine be blessed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain for the record the role of the FERC in regulating public utility holding companies following repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act. The repeal contains several savings

clauses. In essence, the savings clauses state that none of them give the FERC any new authority. They confirm that once PUHCA repeal takes effect, the FERC will continue to apply existing utility rate regulation to public utilities within formerly registered holding companies under PUHCA of 1935.

Particularly, Section 1275(a) states if a state commission disagrees with the allocation of costs of non-power goods or services provided by an affiliate organized specifically for that purpose, typically a service company, either the state commission or the holding company system may ask the FERC to resolve the allocation issue. The FERC will then make a determination of the proper allocation of such costs under the standards contained in the section, but only at the request of a State commission or a holding company system. The FERC has no authority to review or approve such cost allocations absent such a request. Section 1275(b) merely states that both the FERC and the State commissions retain whatever rights they now have to review cost allocations from service companies among public utilities for rate-making purposes.

H.R. 1964 THE HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1964, the Highlands Conservation Act, introduced by my colleague, Mr. RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN.

I am very pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Highlands Conservation Act, which is an important step forward in our ongoing effort to save New Jersey's precious open space and enhance the quality of life for residents. New Jersey is the most densely populated State in the Nation, which is why it is so important that we think ahead and recognize the importance of preserving our remaining acres of open space. By protecting the 2 million acres of the Highlands, which extend through our neighboring states as well, we are creating an environmental legacy for future generations, safeguarding our area's drinking water, and ensuring that our children and our children's children have places to explore and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

The Highlands Conservation Act is a testament to the foresight of the bill's author, Congressman RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, who recognizes the importance of saving New Jersey's open space. I have seen Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN's commitment to the preservation of undeveloped acres firsthand as a colleague of his on the House Appropriations Committee. He worked in a bipartisan fashion to garner support for his measure. Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN's leadership to protect the Highlands will truly help New Jersey live up to its namesake as the Garden State.

Getting Congress to authorize \$100 million for the preservation of the Highlands would be a victory for our quality of life and the environment, but also a victory for New Jersey's taxpayers who will be spared from having to pay for the full cost of these preservation efforts. I am pleased that I was able to help get this bill onto the floor today and I look forward to

working with Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN on the Appropriations Committee to preserve New Jersey's open space.

HALF A LOAF FOR AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS IN ELIMINATING DISABILITY TAX

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this session I signed the discharge petition to force a vote on legislation that I co-sponsored (H.R. 303) which would have repealed altogether an antiquated law from the 1890s that prevents disabled veterans from receiving concurrently both military retirement and veterans' disability benefits. In response to that parliamentary procedure, the Republican Leadership finally relented and included a plan in the FY 2004 Defense Authorization Conference Report that will be phased in over ten years and would provide greater benefits for approximately 245,000 disabled veterans—only half of those who see their retirement benefits reduced or eliminated under current law.

This is a good step forward and I surely would have voted in favor of this plan had it been brought to the House floor as a free-standing bill. Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership folded it into the \$400 billion Defense Authorization Conference Report, which I voted against for several other reasons. Now that this legislation has been enacted, it is incumbent upon this Congress to do more than provide half a loaf. We need to pass additional legislation in the next session of Congress to cover the remainder of our nation's disabled veterans who are unfairly left in the predicament of having to pay this de facto "disability tax".

On January 21, 2001, President Bush said, "America's veterans ask only that government honor its commitments as they honored theirs. . . . In all matters of concern to veterans—from health care to program funding—you have my pledge that those commitments will be kept. My Administration will do all it can to assist our veterans and to correct oversights of the past."

I couldn't agree more. I will actively support additional legislation in the next session of this Congress to ensure that none of the 4,263 veterans in New Jersey who currently receive military retirement benefits will have their disability payments reduced commensurately because they remain subject to the so-called concurrent receipt prohibition.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE SPECIAL AGENT ROD MILLER

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation to Special Agent Rodney Miller of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service for his 32 years of service to his

country, and to salute him on the occasion of his retirement from the ranks of federal law enforcement.

Special Agent Rod Miller was born and raised in Linton, Indiana, which is in the heart of Indiana's 8th Congressional District. The son of an Army veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart during World War II and who himself worked as a Navy employee for some 30 years thereafter, Rod spent time as a life-guard and paperboy in Linton before graduating from Linton High School in 1966. He enrolled at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, and completed two years of study before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1969. After a four-year stint in the Air Force, including over a year spent in Vietnam, Rod returned to Terre Haute and completed his undergraduate studies, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology in 1974. Shortly thereafter, he began coursework at the same school to obtain a Master of Science degree, also in Criminology.

In May 1975, Rod commenced what would become a long and illustrious career as a Special Agent with the Naval Investigative Service (NIS)—the predecessor of today's Naval Criminal Investigative Service—at NIS Resident Agency Great Lakes. There he learned the basics of criminal investigation, and proved himself to be a talented and driven law enforcement professional.

In 1978, Rod opened a new NIS office in Crane, Indiana, where the Navy conducts some of its most important research, development, and engineering of surface ship combat systems. He also took this opportunity to conclude his studies at Indiana State University, finishing his thesis and earning his Master's degree in 1979.

Following his NIS service in his home state of Indiana, Rod was assigned to the NIS Resident Agency in Guam from 1980 to 1982. He demonstrated continued leadership and investigative acumen in Guam, where he received a meritorious award from the Drug Enforcement Administration for his role in a significant international drug smuggling investigation, and was made an honorary Police Officer with the Guam Department of Public Safety for the support he provided to that department. He was rewarded with a supervisory role at the NIS Resident Agency in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he was appointed to the position of Assistant Special Agent in Charge in 1982.

For the next 21 years, Rod served with distinction in supervisory roles at a host of critical Navy locations—from 1984 to 1985, as the Special Assistant to the NIS Regional Director in Norfolk; from 1985 to 1986, as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the fraud unit at NIS Resident Agency Norfolk; and from 1987 to 1988, as the first Special Agent in Charge of the new NIS Mid-Atlantic Regional Fraud Unit.

In 1988, Rod was appointed to be the first Special Agent in Charge of Operation III Wind, one of the most significant defense procurement fraud investigations in our nation's history. This joint investigation ultimately resulted in the conviction of 46 individuals and six defense corporations, and yielded fines and penalties in the amount of some \$190 million.

Rod's professional success continued in the wake of his involvement in Operation III Wind. In 1989, he was appointed the Special Agent in Charge of the new NIS Regional Fraud Unit based in Los Angeles, California. And, when

the decision was made to open a new NIS Field Office in Los Angeles in 1992, Rod was the natural choice to be the first Special Agent in Charge there, as well.

In 1993, in the aftermath of the Tailhook investigation, the then-acting Secretary of the Navy disestablished the Naval Investigative Service and established the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) in its stead. This change, and the reforms associated with it, had profound and dramatic effects across the organization.

Among other developments, in 1997 NCIS created a new Office of Special Projects, or OSP, representing the vanguard of the agency's counterespionage efforts. The following year, Rod was named the Special Agent in Charge of OSP, and set about to make his impact felt. He applied his vision and leadership to the OSP mission, ultimately evolving the unit far beyond original expectations. In addition to enjoying success in several significant espionage cases, Rod's unit applied its specialized training to a broad range of other investigative and operational activities, including counterterrorism operations, counternarcotics initiatives, and "cold case" homicide efforts. The successes achieved in these endeavors have earned OSP accolades from across the law enforcement and counterintelligence communities.

Mr. Speaker, Rod Miller has served our nation with distinction for 32 years—first in the uniform of an Air Force airman, and then in the ranks of federal law enforcement with NCIS. His is a record to be admired. I hope that the occasion of Rod's retirement from NCIS this November will give all of us pause to consider the many contributions and sacrifices of our nation's law enforcement professionals. On behalf of all Americans, I wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he pursues the next stage in his life—returning to Linton with his wife of 34 years, to join his three children and three grandchildren there—after a long, successful, and distinguished career in service to the United States of America.

THE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2003

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2003."

While Congress, the Administration and the American people have discussed the many challenges facing our nation's manufacturers, such as international trade, China policy, tax policy and health care costs, I believe that a fundamental issue has been generally left out of the debate—innovation. For decades innovation has underpinned American's dominance in the world economy. If our manufacturing sector is to remain competitive in the global marketplace, we must foster innovation within this sector.

As Chairman of the House Science Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, I oversee many of the federal government's manufacturing-focused research and development programs. I have met with

manufacturers from around the country and specifically spoken to manufacturers both large and small about their problems. They all agree that innovation is one of the keys to ensuring our manufacturers remain competitive and it is crucial to the development of new industries. Funding research and development underpins innovation.

Based on these discussions and a hearing I held earlier this year, I am proud to introduce the Manufacturing Technology and Competitiveness Act of 2003. This bill will help our nation's manufacturers maintain and improve their technological edge. This legislation will stimulate innovation through collaborative research and development, and broaden and strengthen the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which provides small- and medium-sized manufacturers with the tools to compete better. More importantly, it will bring together a variety of partners in the public and private sectors, building relationships that encourage and foster technological development and the ability to bring these developments to the marketplace.

Our global competitors are eagerly supporting investments in manufacturing research and development because they know it is the key to sustained economic development. If we are to continue to be the world's technological leader, we need to rise to this new global challenge and make the investments envisioned by this legislation.

More specifically, the bill:

Ensures that all federal manufacturing programs and related funding are coordinated and focused on solving these important problems. The bill requires a strategic plan and improved budget process to ensure these programs work together efficiently;

Designates the current Under Secretary for Technology within the Department of Commerce, as the Under Secretary for Manufacturing and Technology, to be the federal government's point person on manufacturing R&D policy, and outlines new duties focused on fostering innovation within the manufacturing sector for this position;

Establishes a new collaborative research and development program for manufacturing technology to build partnerships among higher education institutions, businesses, states and other partners. This program will provide \$184 million over four years;

Helps to develop future leaders in manufacturing technology through a fellowship program in applied manufacturing research. Fellows will get to work with world-class leaders in technology and engineering at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (KIST). The fellowship program will provide \$7.5 million over four years;

Reauthorizes and reforms the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program by increasing competition among the centers. MEP is funded at \$120 million for the first year, increasing to \$137 million by year four; and,

Creates a new competitive, peer-reviewed grant program within the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program to develop new tools to help small businesses innovate and compete. Funding for this program will come from the total MEP funding.

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased that we are on the road to economic recovery, we must still address underlying concerns about the future of U.S. manufacturing. This bill will help address some of those concerns and put our Nation's manufacturers in a better position to compete today and in the future.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate, and with the manu-

facturing and research communities, to pass this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUBURN, ALABAMA CITY MANAGER DOUG WATSON TO THE AUBURN COMMUNITY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the residents of Auburn, Alabama, in recognizing the contributions of Doug Watson to the City of Auburn, Alabama.

Doug Watson has been City Manager for Auburn for 21 years. During this time, he has gained the respect of the entire community for his loyal and dedicated service. To demonstrate their appreciation, the City of Auburn, Auburn University and the Auburn Chamber of Commerce are hosting a community-wide reception on December 10, 2003. The reception will immediately follow the dedication ceremony of the Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, consisting of the Development Services building, the Public Safety Administration building, and the Municipal Court. The naming of this complex after Doug Watson is an indication of the high esteem in which he is held.

I salute Doug Watson for his service to the Auburn community and wish him well as he takes on the new position of tenured professor at the University of Texas at Dallas.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico provided nearly \$6.6 billion in royalty, bonus and rent revenues to the federal government in 2001. The coastal states which supported this production received approximately \$130 million combined—a royalty sharing rate of less than two percent. Yet onshore oil and gas production revenues on federal lands is shared 50/50 between the federal government and the state in which the production occurs. In the case of Alaska, the state gets 90 percent of these onshore revenues produced on federal lands.

The disparity between the onshore and offshore royalty sharing programs and their contribution to our domestic energy security is striking. Federal lands within the United States generated an estimated \$2 billion in royalties from the production of oil, gas and coal in 2001 with about \$1 billion of these revenues going to the states for "hosting" these energy production activities. In contrast, offshore production in Louisiana's waters of oil and gas contributed over \$5 billion in royalties to the U.S. Treasury in 2001 yet Louisiana received royalties of less than \$30 million, a 0.6 percent return. The Gulf of Mexico produces more energy and associated revenues to the U.S. Treasury than any other area of the federal

domain. Nearly \$130 billion has been provided to the federal government as a result of oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico.

States receive 100 percent of the royalties they charge and collect in state waters. Louisiana's waters extend to only three nautical miles, compared to 9 miles for Texas and Florida. Therefore, if Louisiana had waters equal to these states, the significant revenues produced in these waters would have been wholly received by the state, not the US Treasury.

Section 1412 of the Energy Policy Act of 2003, the Secure Energy Reinvestment Fund (SERF), recognizes the significant contribution coastal states provide by supporting offshore development to decrease our nation's dependence on foreign oil and gas. The SERF program shares a small portion of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues with states that host offshore oil and gas production. As included in the conference report, section 32(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act defines the terms used in the section, including 'coastal energy state'. It is the intention of the conferees that the Secretary of Interior (Secretary) reevaluate the eligibility of each coastal energy state's participation in the SERF program annually.

Section 32(b) provides \$35 million annually, as well as OCS royalties and bonuses above the CBO baseline (in some cases, royalties and bonuses will have to reach levels hundreds of millions or over a billion dollars above the baseline before additional revenues will be shared with coastal energy states). This subsection authorizes up to \$500 million for each Fiscal Year through 2013, and after 2013, 25 percent of qualified OCS revenues are to be shared with coastal energy states. Section 32(b) also includes a provision to protect deposits into the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund.

Section 32(c) establishes a distribution formula comparable to those used in other federal royalty sharing programs. It also recognizes the historical contribution that some states provided by hosting offshore oil and gas production for decades, despite unfulfilled promises of royalty sharing by the federal government. The conferees have confirmed the document referred to in subsection 32(c)(2)(A)(iii). This section also provides 35 percent of a state's share directly to the political subdivisions that are within the state's coastal zone. When determining criteria for the "relative level of OCS oil and gas activities" in a state, the Secretary shall seek to direct the majority of this portion to the most impacted, or two most impacted, political subdivisions. In the case of Louisiana, the conferees have determined activities in Port Fourchon/LA1 should be recognized as OCS oil and gas activities and the conferees direct the Secretary to provide funds from the relevant portion of the formula in subsection 32(c)(2)(B)(iii) to address these impacts before any other activities in the state.

Section 32(c) specifies that only coastal energy states that have an approved plan as described under section 32(d) are eligible to receive funds. Section 32(c) also gives the Secretary authority to hold a state's funds in escrow (within the fund) if necessary and establishes a reallocation provision if states fail to have an approved plan. Finally, the section ensures coastal energy states will receive a minimum share of revenues.

Section 32(d) requires states to submit plans to the Secretary for approval. The Governor of each eligible state must include the plans prepared by the political subdivisions in the state plan. It is not the intention of this section to allow the Governor of a state to disapprove the plans of a political subdivision. In preparation of the plans, the conferees strongly urge the Secretary to ensure that states and political subdivisions carefully evaluate and coordinate with other regions. Further, states and political subdivisions should seek to use existing federal and state programs that advance the goals of the state plans. States and political subdivisions should leverage SERF resources to other federal programs to the maximum extent practicable.

Subsection 32(d)(2)(A)(v) is designed to ensure that any state with significant offshore oil and gas operations will address impacts that are "significant" or "progressive". This subsection requires that any state producing more than 25 percent of qualified OCS revenues spend not less than 30 percent of funding received annually from the SERF program (together with appropriate political subdivisions) to address "significant" or "progressive" impacts identified in the most recent EIS. For the first ten Fiscal Years of this program, the term "significant" means only infrastructure supporting "focal points of impact" (LAI) as identified in a relevant EIS. The term "progressive" means only coastal wetlands restoration. It is the conferees intent that greater than 15 percent of the funding received by the state and appropriate political subdivisions be used equally for each of these items. Further, it is the conferees intent that these monies shall be in addition to those provided to a political subdivision under subsection 32(c)(2)(B)(iii) (25 percent discretionary portion).

Section 32(e) specifies that the funds should be used in a manner that is consistent with federal environmental laws and all relevant state laws. Additionally, this section provides the eligible use of funds by states and political subdivisions. The SERF program is designed to ensure that mitigation and natural resource protection are top priorities of the eligible states. The Secretary should work with states and political subdivisions to establish reasonable administrative costs and keep these costs to a minimum. It is not the intent of this program to fund any otherwise required function of local or state government unless that function was designed to mitigate OCS activities or improve the coastal environment. Should any state propose a program or expenditure that would be authorized under subsection 32(e)(5), the Secretary shall not approve this use of funds unless there is a clear and direct link to OCS activities.

Section 32(f) requires the Secretary to withhold funding to any state or political subdivision that spent funds provided under this section in a manner inconsistent with the approved plan of such state or political subdivision.

Section 32(g) allows the Secretary to require arbitration to resolve disputes among any combination of coastal political subdivisions, states and the Secretary.

Section 32(h) provides for an administrative cost to be retained by the Minerals Management Service to implement this program. It is the intent of the conferees the Secretary will designate only the Minerals Management Service as the agency to administer and pro-

vide oversight to the SERF program. Since the majority of the coastal energy states and nearly all the federal offshore production is located in the Gulf of Mexico, the conferees expect the current Gulf of Mexico OCS Region office to play a significant role in the administration of this program.

Section 32(i) directs that two percent of the SERF fund be provided to the CREST program which has an existing relationship with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. This payment shall be without limit and consist of two percent of all revenues available in the fund annually. It is the intent of the conferees that the funds provided under this section be used in a manner that is largely consistent with the goals of the existing CREST MOU and the current relationship with NOAA. In addition, the consortium may perform any activity authorized in section 1412(c) of this act. It is the intent of the conferees that Nicholls State University act as the fiscal agent for this section. The conferees expect CREST to retain its primary facilities at their existing location at CCEER.

Section 32(j) requires that any expenditure by a state or political subdivision using funds provided under section 32 must be in compliance with authorized uses specified in subsection 32(e). Section 32(j) also provides that these funds may be used for any payment that is eligible under section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act. So as to create parity with other federal revenue sharing programs, it is the intent of the conferees that any funds provided under section 32 may be used for any purpose that is in an approved plan. The conferees expect the Secretary to work with other federal agencies, if appropriate, to ensure that states and coastal political subdivisions be permitted to use SERF monies in accordance with this section.

Section 32(k) requires states and political subdivisions to submit an annual joint report to the Secretary describing the expenditure of funds for the preceding fiscal year.

Section 32(l) requires that the otherwise established signs at projects or programs receiving funds under this section identify the source of revenue as being from the "Secure Energy Reinvestment Fund (SERF) program" or other common name established by the Secretary. The signage should also identify the source of funding as being from revenues generated from offshore oil and gas production.

Section 1412(b) amends section 31 of the OCSLA to reauthorize the program.

Section 1412(c) authorizes the CREST consortium through the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce. It is the intent of the conferees that the consortium will focus their work on coastal wetlands loss in the lower Mississippi River delta and adjacent estuaries. Further, as a condition of funding, the conferees expect the Secretaries to require the consortium to establish an online library of existing information and findings on coastal wetlands restoration, the interaction between the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico, and other similar information. The agencies should use CREST as a tool to coordinate the various coastal activities, research and development, and programs of the various federal agencies that have existing authority over coastal activities or programs that affect coastal use. It is not the intent of the conferees that, as a condition of funding, the Secretary or Secretaries require the consortium to conduct operations

outside the region in which it currently operates.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the long-overdue energy conference report, while at the same time sharing my disappointment with the process by which the House leadership has brought this legislation to the floor.

As we all know, one of the greatest problems facing the United States today is our lack of national energy independence. The United States' dependence upon foreign sources of oil is simply unacceptable for a country rich in natural resources and equipped with the capability to develop these resources as a means of increasing our national security. At the height of the energy crisis during the 1970s, the United States imported 46 percent of our oil supply. Today, it is estimated that we import approximately 55 percent of all energy used in this country. As America's energy consumption increases, our need to produce more energy rises as well. Unfortunately, supply is not meeting demand, and our increased reliance on foreign sources of energy has potentially disastrous consequences for our economy and national security. The energy conference report contains significant incentives for the exploration and production of oil and gas and represents an important step toward increasing our national energy independence.

At the same time, energy independence cannot be attained through production alone. Though Congress should strongly encourage the production of energy sources such as oil, gas, and nuclear power, Congress should also incentivize businesses and consumers to produce energy with wind and solar power and conserve energy through innovative technologies.

When used effectively, the Internal Revenue Code ["the Code"] can help to stimulate both the production and conservation of energy. Provisions in the Code such as section 29 and section 45 have stimulated the production of nonconventional fuels and wind energy, respectively, and the tax title of the energy conference report will extend these credits and encourage continued production from these sources for years to come.

Further, the report's funding authorizations and tax incentives for investment in clean coal technology will benefit both consumers and the environment in the state of Texas. Texas consumes more coal for electricity generation than any other state in the country, with a significant amount of that coal mined in Texas. Unfortunately, while generation facilities must burn coal to provide the electricity that so many people take for granted, burning coal inevitably releases some pollutants into our atmosphere. Together with private industry, the Department of Energy's clean coal technology program is working to develop cleaner-burning technologies that will decrease emissions of nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and other airborne pollutants.

Additionally, I am pleased that the conference report seeks to decrease our over-reliance on foreign sources of oil by repealing the current sunsets for the qualified electric vehicle credit and clean fuel vehicles deductions. Further, I appreciate the inclusion of a credit for the purchase of hydrogen fuel cell motor vehicles. I included a similar provision in my energy tax legislation, H.R. 1436, the Energy Independence and Security Act, and believe strongly that fuel cell technology holds enormous potential for the future. The federal government has an important role to play in the development and use of this clean, renewable energy source.

Any balanced energy plan must acknowledge that Americans need to increase our conservation efforts in an attempt to move closer to energy independence. To that end, I appreciate the inclusion of incentives to homeowners to make energy efficient home improvements that decrease their consumption of energy.

As well, the energy conference report's increased funding authorization for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP] will directly benefit low-income Texans in my district who rely on LIHEAP aid to pay their utility bills. Last year, Texans received \$50.1 million through this federal grant program, and this legislation should increase the amount of federal aid that Texas receives in the future.

Further, I believe that the electricity provisions contained within the conference report will encourage the improvement of our country's transmission infrastructure by reducing the depreciable lives for transmission assets from twenty to fifteen years. Accelerating the depreciation period will provide additional resources for electric utilities to modernize their transmission systems, which should increase the reliability, safety, and security of the national grid system.

I am, however, extremely disappointed with the process by which the Republican leadership has brought this measure to the floor. It is well known by now that the Republican leadership and energy conferees in both Houses drafted the conference report without Democratic participation. Democratic legislators who, in some cases, have been involved in drafting complex energy legislation for several decades were prohibited from taking part in this process. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans' behavior throughout this process has been outrageous and inexcusable, and their actions demonstrate a contempt both for the democratic process and the constituents of the legislators who have been denied a voice over the past several months.

SUPPORTING POISON PREVENTION
AND CONTROL CENTERS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 686, which strengthens poison prevention in America and guarantees funding for our nation's 74 poison control, information and treatment centers. Each year these centers save countless lives, and it is critical that we ensure the financial stability

and public awareness they need to best serve the American people.

As our nation's primary line of defense against poison-related injuries and deaths, these centers provide physicians and the general public with direct access to life-saving information. Health care professionals rely on these centers for immediate, around-the-clock assessments and treatment recommendations for many types of poisonings, overdoses and drug interactions affecting people of all ages. Parents who find their child has consumed a toxic substance can receive immediate professional help with one phone call, any time, day or night.

Over 90 percent of all accidental poisonings take place in the home. More than 50 percent of these accidents involve children under the age of six, with more than one million young children exposed to toxins annually. When a child's life is potentially in danger, parents need to know immediately where to go for help. Too often parents are unaware of the services provided by poison control centers and turn to costly and time-consuming options such as rushing to emergency rooms at distant hospitals. In response to this situation, this bill provides for both a nationwide toll free number connected to local poison control centers, and a new media campaign to call the public's attention to services available through this number.

My home state of Illinois is served by the nation's oldest poison control, information and treatment center, the Illinois Poison Center. The IPC has expertly served the needs of metropolitan Chicago since 1953, and handles approximately 100,000 cases throughout the state of Illinois each year. In 1985, my state was served by five regional poison control centers, but only IPC remains after deep budget cuts over the years. We must ensure that our nation's remaining centers receive the support they need to continue serving the public.

Our nation's Poison Control and Information Centers also play a vital role in managing public health crises, environmental disasters, and the threat of weapons of mass destruction. In July of 2000, the Illinois Poison Center was the first to respond to a nitric acid leak at a Chicago factory. In December of that same year, the IPC was again the first to respond, this time to an anthrax threat at the British-American Chamber of Commerce in Chicago. And, in August of 2001, the IPC responded to a toxic chemical spill on the Dan Ryan Expressway.

The Illinois Poison Center has developed protocols for response and notification of proper governmental agencies when these events occur, and it is also a participant in regional disaster drills throughout the metropolitan Chicago area. Poison control and information centers like the IPC are a critical part of our nation's emergency response and disaster preparedness systems.

Poison centers represent a cost effective investment that benefits the public health. In 1998, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimated that every dollar spent on a poison center saves seven dollars in unnecessary medical costs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend our colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this legislation. This bill is good for the health, safety and security of the American people. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for S. 686.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003 RE-
GARDING TITLE VIII—HYDROGEN

SPEECH OF

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of Conference Committee on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, as well as Chairman of House Energy and Commerce Committee which has jurisdiction over national energy policy as well as the production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing and regulation of energy resources, including unconventional energy resources, I am taking this opportunity to elaborate on and clarify both the legislative provisions and Statement of Managers that is contained in the conference report on H.R. 6 regarding Title VIII, Hydrogen.

On April 1, 2003 and April 2, 2003, the Energy and Commerce Committee met in mark up session to consider a committee print, the Energy Policy Act of 2003. On April 2, 2003, the Energy and Commerce Committee voted to approve the committee print and report this legislation to the full House of Representatives. This committee print contained, among other provisions, Title V, Vehicle and Fuels, Subtitle B, FreedomCar and Hydrogen Fuel Program.

H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, was subsequently introduced in the House of Representatives on April 7, 2003. H.R. 6 contained the legislative work product of the Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as other committees. Hydrogen provisions in H.R. 6 concerning the "FreedomCar" and hydrogen fuel and infrastructure program were consolidated in Division F—Hydrogen. The conference report on H.R. 6 contains Title VIII, Hydrogen, which is based on Division F of H.R. 6, incorporating several elements of S. 14.

The program established under Title VIII of the committee print provides for the production of hydrogen from diverse energy sources, including conventional and renewable energy sources. It also provides for the use of hydrogen in electric power generation and the safe delivery of hydrogen and hydrogen-carrier fuels. The program additionally encompasses advanced vehicle technologies, including automobile materials, energy storage, propulsion and hybrid systems.

Although Title VIII contains necessary appropriations to the Secretary of Energy to fund the activities authorized by the Title, central to the operation of this federal program is the public/private partnership required under Section 803(a). This partnership is reflected within the section 803(b)(1)(A) programmatic goal, specifically the directive to "enable a commitment by automakers no later than year 2015 to offer for sale" hydrogen fuel vehicles. Section 803(b)(2) contains a corresponding programmatic goal of obtaining a private sector commitment, not later than 2015, for necessary hydrogen infrastructure. Under sections 803(b)(1)(A) and 803(b)(2), both the vehicle and infrastructure commitments are followed, by five years, with availability, in the mass consumer market, of vehicles and safe and convenient refueling capacity.

Title VIII, therefore, incorporates the public/private partnership regarding the production of

hydrogen fuels, associated hydrogen vehicles and necessary support infrastructure at a basic structural level. Section 803(a)(7), in particular, indicates that the development of necessary codes and standards needed to implement the program take place "after consultation with the private sector." This statutory directive applies to the production, distribution, storage and use of hydrogen, hydrogen-carrier fuels, and related products. Statutory authority conveyed to the Secretary of Energy for the promulgation of "necessary codes and standards" is to be interpreted by the Department of Energy in conformance with the ordinary and regular practice concerning these legislative terms.

The concept of public/private partnership in implementation of the program established through Title VIII is additionally reflected in section 803(d) requiring the conduct of activities to deploy hydrogen energy and energy infrastructure, fuel cells and advanced vehicle technologies. It should be noted that this deployment activity is separate and apart from section 803(c) which requires the Secretary of energy to fund a limited number of demonstration projects. This separation of demonstration and deployment activities is intentional and reflects the fact that such required elements of the hydrogen program are distinct entities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GUSTAVO
MONTEJANO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of my constituent Gustavo Montejano (Mon-tay-HAH-no) and his two daughters, Katia and Esmerelda.

Gustavo Montejano is a true hero. When his family's home caught fire early on Monday morning, Gustavo rushed his wife and 2-year-old son out of the house. He then went back to rescue his two daughters, who were still asleep inside. Unfortunately, the second story collapsed, and the smoke and flames overtook him before he could get his girls to safety. As the headline from the Houston Chronicle reads, "He died hugging his two girls."

While we are all deeply saddened for the Montejano family's loss, I know that those girls were comforted by their father's presence, and that they died together knowing that he loved them so much that he was willing to sacrifice his own life trying to save them.

Gustavo's family remembers him as a kind and generous man, who took in his sister and her eight children when they needed a home.

Despite the fact that he had been laid off from his job, he helped support his sister's family as well as his own, helping to pay bills and care for the children.

I know his wife, Maribel, and 2-year-old son are devastated by this loss, but they should be proud of the great man Gustavo was, and that he died a hero's death.

His loss will be felt by all of Galena Park, and I ask that you remember the Montejano family in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO SPC JEREMY
DIGIOVANNI

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Specialist Jeremy DiGiovanni who was killed in action Saturday, November 15, in Iraq. Along with seventeen other American soldiers, including another Mississippian, PFC Damien Heidelberg, Jeremy was killed in the collision of two Black Hawk helicopters.

Jeremy was a member of the A Company, 4th Battalion, 101st Airborne based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and he served as crew chief on one of the Black Hawks. Jeremy hailed from Pike County, Mississippi, and he served his country proudly and with honor.

Specialist DiGiovanni made the ultimate sacrifice defending our Nation and helped free millions of men, women, and children from the tyrannical grasp of an evil and brutal dictator. We Mississippians are so proud of the men and women we have serving in Iraq and appreciate their dedication to defending freedom and democracy.

I ask my fellow Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember Jeremy and his family during this difficult time. To his family, our prayers are with you, and we are grateful for Jeremy's courage and service to the United States of America.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE,
ENSURING FOOD SAFETY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

MS. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a danger that threatens every one of us—food-borne illnesses. Each year, 76 million people suffer from food-borne illness. Of those individuals, approximately 325,000 will be hospitalized and more than 5,000 will die. Our children, the elderly, and those with weakened immunity systems face an even greater danger. Of the deaths caused by food-borne illness nearly every year, children comprise nearly 40 percent of the victims. I know parents who have lost their children to this threat.

Today, I am introducing legislation, the National Food Safety Database Act, that will give officials charged with caring for our children and our other vulnerable loved ones the information they need to make safe food purchasing choices. My bill will create a national database containing information that documents whether a company has a history of providing safe food—food that has been produced and packaged under sanitary conditions and is properly branded. It will also document any outbreaks of food-borne illness that have originated from the provider and any enforcement actions that have been taken against the provider. Officials at hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and child care facilities can access this database from a secure website and use that information to ensure that they are serving those in their care the safest food possible. The final authority over the information

included in this database will be granted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services who will work in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. A task force consisting of anticipated users, representatives of food manufacturers, processors, packers, transporters, and representatives of consumer groups will also advise the Secretary as to what information needs to be included to ensure our loved ones' safety. The Secretary will also have the authority to make grants to states to help them access and use the database.

The information that will be provided by the database is critical to public health. We need to prevent outbreaks of food-borne illness in our schools. Earlier this year a school in Illinois received ammonia-tainted food and did not receive adequate notification that the product had been contaminated. Luckily, no one died, but a number of teachers and students suffered. Currently the ability of hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and child care providers to provide quality care is compromised by their inability to get adequate and timely food safety information. Safety histories of the companies are not shared with the officials who purchase the food. Due to a complex web of food manufacturers, distributors and brokers, if the USDA or FDA announces that a manufacturer has produced tainted food, officials often have no way to determine if affected foods are in their kitchens and being served to our loved ones.

A person fed tainted food can experience diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Those in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and child care centers are by far the most vulnerable among us. Their immune systems are not as strong; their bodies are just not as sturdy. They can become very ill and can even die from food-borne illness, as far too many already have.

Food manufacturers also stand to gain from this bill. Companies that have a history of providing safe food will have that fact known. Should an accident occur and there is an outbreak, it will be much easier for companies to know where the tainted food has gone. The company will be able to stop the outbreak faster and reduce their liability.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that will increase the safety of the most vulnerable in our society. Our loved ones deserve to know that someone is looking out for their safety while they can't do it themselves. Without this bill, we can't make that guarantee.

EDUCATION FUNDING

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern over the failure to fund and adequately implement the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

This bipartisan legislation attempted a comprehensive approach to reforming our schools by refocusing our national education policy on helping states and local school districts raise academic achievement for all children, while providing more funding and flexibility to states and local districts.

The legislation passed with overwhelming support because it included tough accountability requirements aimed at closing the achievement gap between students of different economic backgrounds; stronger professional development standards and training for teachers; additional resources do turn around low performing schools; allowances for an unprecedented level of flexibility for local school districts; and rewards and sanctions for States based on the academic performance of students.

Despite the bill's good intentions and tremendous support in Congress, the legislation has become largely a hollow promise to our children because of inadequate funding. The Administration's budget request this year provided only \$22.7 billion for these important education efforts—\$9.7 billion less than what Congress agreed was necessary.

The commitment of significant federal funding to assist local schools in meeting the new testing, achievement and training requirements was a solemn promise made to all the children of our nation. NCLB imposes strict standards on our school districts with considerable penalties if they do not comply. But how can our schools be expected to meet these new standards without adequate federal funding to meet these challenging mandates?

For this reason, I have cosponsored legislation, the Keeping Our Promises to America's Children Act of 2003, to suspend application of NCLB until the funding that was promised to our schools is actually delivered to our schools. The alternative merely sets up our schools for failure.

Implementation of this important law has also been unduly harsh. Award-winning science teachers who have excelled at teaching for decades are deemed unqualified because their bachelor's degree was in a different subject. As someone who supported passage of NCLB, I am alarmed by its poor funding and implementation.

Passing the NCLB was only one step in the lawmaking process. To enact real education reform and to implement the new education standards within NCLB, we must appropriate the full funding required, and not blind ourselves in its application. We must not short-change our children's education.

I ask my colleagues today to reaffirm the Congress's commitment to the No Child Left Behind Act and support full funding authorized by the legislation.

CONGRATULATING BROWNSVILLE PORTER COWBOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Porter Cowboys on their incredible season, as they just completed their first-ever winning record and were one win away from a perfect regular season record.

In the almost 30 years of the school's history, the Cowboys football team has endured many tough seasons and constant criticism to their program.

However, last week they won their first-ever playoff game beating PSJA 45-8 and advanced to the second round of the Texas high school playoffs where they now face Gregory Portland. I wish them the best as they continue their amazing playoff run and season.

The Porter Cowboy story is one that has everyone in the community and in the Rio Grande Valley extremely excited and energized. Guided by Coach Jim Helms and his exceptional staff, this talented group of players exceeded virtually all expectations that many had for them coming into the season. Of course, the players and coaches had something else in mind when they were preparing in the off-season and now they are in the middle of a dream season; a season that the faculty, students and families, along with the players, will never forget.

As these Porter players make history on the football field they are now only opening the doors to the future in which they will be part of a generation that will make positive changes to the lives of many living in the community. The same determination and commitment they possess on the football field every Friday night will prepare them to respond accordingly when faced with life's challenges and obstacles.

The Porter Nation as they have come to be known were led by their star quarterback and he was surrounded by a cast of gifted athletes that contributed to the success of the stellar season. The arsenal in the passing game, complemented with a tremendous defense and an excellent kicking game enabled them to truly dominate their opponents.

I am so proud of these guys and wish them the best as they continue to achieve their goals both on the field and in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that the roster with the names of each player, coach, and trainer be inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

2003 PORTER COWBOYS FOOTBALL VARSITY ROSTER

Chris Walker, Evy Chavez, Emmanuel Gutierrez, Rick Monsivais, Jason Bernard, Chris Vasquez, Billy Garza, Ivan Villarreal, Michael Verduzco, Mike Salazar, Manuel Hernandez, Steve Garcia, Jimmy Gutierrez, Benny Salazar, Moises Salinas, Ivan Iglesias, and Louie Pineda.

Rogelio Camarillo, Ben Gomez, Jesus Chapa, Carlos Lozano, Angel Ramirez, Jesus Ferrer, Luis Cruz, Jose Izaguirre, Thomas J. Rios, Joe Espinoza, Juan Leal, Javier Ruiz, Josh Burguete, Eli Perez, Ernesto Olivarez, Isaac Almaguer, and Omar Avila.

David Pallares, Emmanuel Lopez, Eliseo Balderas, Christian Lara, Stephen Cisneros, Eber Flores, David Diaz, Julian Mendez, Oscar De Los Santos, Juan Peña, Julius Williams, Frankie Ramirez, Danny Palacios, Juan Perez, Jose Guerra, Will Jaramillo, and Gilbert Flores.

Athletic Director: Joe A. Rodriguez.

Athletic Coordinator: Jim Helms.

Football Assistants: Art Cantu, Ruben Cor tez, Bill Deen, Luis Garza, Benny Gonzalez, James Kizer, Abel Moreno, Danny Pardo, Armando Rangel, Tom Rios, Jeffrey Rodriguez, and Jose Luis Zarate.

Trainers: John Prosek and Jerry San Pedro.

HONORING WILLIAM THOMAS
(BILL) POWERS

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the most distinguished and remarkable individuals in the Coachella Valley, a region of southern California which I have the privilege of representing.

Mr. William Thomas (Bill) Powers has established an impressive record of achievement and service, both in his professional career and charitable activities. Since moving to the Palm Springs region in 1986, after a long and successful career in banking in Los Angeles, Bill Powers dedicated himself to enhancing our community's economy and improving the lives of its residents.

Now, our community joins to honor this most deserving individual with the Desert Samaritans for the Elderly naming Bill Powers Good Samaritan of the Year 2003.

A native Californian, Bill is renowned in our community for his many good works and strong stewardship of numerous worthwhile causes. At the same time, Bill has used his keen judgment and extensive professional experience to establish one of the leading financial institutions in California's Inland Empire, Pacific Western Bank.

In Bill's own words he "believes in the community and the people who live here. The best way I know how to give back to the community is through excellent service; I extend that philosophy in both my professional and personal life" and our community is better for his commitment to this code.

Bill and his wife, Anita, have raised a wonderful family. Their children, David and Christie, and their grandchildren, Jessica, Teddy, Tommy, and Hunter are a great source of pride to both Bill and Anita.

Bill has distinguished himself in our area through his ability to combine his love of family with his desire to work tirelessly in both business and community causes. The list of charitable and civic causes that Bill has participated in over the years is literally too vast to list in total, however, it is worth noting that he has served as both President and Tournament Chairman of the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, a professional golf tournament that has provided immense financial support to those in need in this region. In addition, Bill has served as President or board member for the United Way of the Desert, the American Cancer Society, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, Desert Samaritans for the Elderly Board of Governors, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, College of the Desert Foundation, Yucca Valley Economic Partnership, founding director of the Desert Town Hall Speakers Forum, and as a member of the McCallum Theatre's Board of Trustees, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to call Bill Powers my friend, and ask that this brief tribute to this accomplished individual be placed permanently in the RECORD. I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF GARY SCHLANSKER,
CEO OF THE GREENVILLE YMCA

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, today I take privilege in honoring Gary Schlansker's 11 years as the President of the Greenville YMCA. Gary has recently accepted the position as the President of the Greater St. Louis YMCA, the 8th largest YMCA system in the country. Gary started his relationship with the YMCA back in 1956 when he was first enrolled in a YMCA program in St. Louis. Gary has indicated that the St. Louis position is the only job that would take him out of Greenville, as Gary grew up in St. Louis and has family in the Show Me State.

The Greenville YMCA has been a model of stability and success for the YMCA system. Since the founding of the Greenville YMCA in 1876, only six people have served as President of the Greenville YMCA.

During Gary's 11 years at the Greenville YMCA, the annual operating budget increased from \$4 million annually to in excess of \$10 million annually. The Greenville YMCA grew from five branches serving 35,000 community members annually to seven branches with three additional outreach centers serving a total of 55,000 people annually. The annual scholarships campaign increased by over 200 percent and collaborations with the greater community now number in excess of 85 annually. Program highlights for the Greenville YMCA include Camp Greenville, Youth in Government, and outreach services through schools and churches. The Youth in Government program of South Carolina is sponsored exclusively through the Greenville YMCA, and is one of the most successful Youth in Government state programs in the country.

Gary's stewardship of the Greenville YMCA is accurately reflected by the tremendous growth and success of the Greenville YMCA. Not only is the growth of the Greenville YMCA impressive, but very importantly the kind and caring manner that Gary has conducted himself on a daily basis will be greatly missed by those who he has served in the Greenville area.

I sincerely wish Gary all the best for a nice start to his new job leading the St. Louis YMCA, as they are getting a wonderful workhorse of a leader to guide their YMCA. Thank you Gary for your 11 great years in Greenville, and we will miss you.

TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL LABOR REFORM ACT OF 2003

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Temporary Agricultural Labor Reform Act of 2003, a bi-partisan bill to reform the H-2A guest worker program. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I have traveled across the Nation and seen first-hand that the H-2A temporary visa process is not working. I have talked face to face with pro-

ducers who have to deal with participating in a costly, time-consuming and flawed program. Employers have to comply with a lengthy labor certification process that is slow, bureaucratic and frustrating. In addition, they are forced to pay an artificially inflated wage rate. My bill will streamline the labor certification process while also creating a wage standard that is more fair and realistic.

Likewise, as a long-time Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I understand the immigration problems that currently face our country. Illegal immigration penalizes those legal immigrants and citizens who play by the rules. It is estimated that there are between 8 and 11 million illegal aliens currently living in the United States. This population grows by over 350,000 each year. Clearly, this situation has reached crisis proportions and cannot be allowed to continue.

Some believe that the only way to reform the guest worker program is by including amnesty provisions and allowing illegal aliens to adjust to Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status. However, this would create the wrong incentive by encouraging foreign nationals to come into the country illegally in the hopes that they, too, will be rewarded for their illegal actions. Amnesty is not the answer to our Nation's illegal immigration problem.

My bill would not grant blanket amnesty. Instead, it would allow the large population of illegal farm workers one chance to come out of hiding and participate legally in the guest worker program. Potential workers would be required to return to their home countries and apply for the program legally from there.

In addition, this legislation would address a troublesome wage issue. Employers are required to pay an inflated wage called the Adverse Effect Wage Rate or AEWR. The AEWR was designed to protect similarly situated domestic workers from being adversely affected by guest workers coming into the country on a seasonal basis and being paid lower wages. However, the shortage of domestic workers in the farm workforce forces employers to hire foreign workers, and thus, is also forcing them to pay an inflated wage. My bill abolishes this unfair wage and creates a prevailing wage standard, under which, all workers are paid the same wage as workers doing similar work in that region.

The facts are simple. Agriculture needs a reliable guest worker program. Workers need access to stable, legal, temporary employment. It is in our national security interest to create a sensible way for workers to come in on a temporary basis, work, and go back to their home countries. My bill addresses the problems in the current guest worker program, and I look forward to working with all of the Members in this body to reform this program and make it a more viable process for everyone involved.

ARSENIC-TREATED WOOD PROHIBITION ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the dangers posed to the public health by arsenic-treated wood. Most of

the lumber sold for outdoor use in our schools' playgrounds and in our own private backyard decks is pressure-treated and injected with toxins to preserve the wood and prevent insect infestation. The most common wood preservative and pesticide used is chromated copper arsenate (CCA), which is 22 percent pure arsenic. The inorganic arsenic used in CCA-treated wood is a known carcinogen and has been linked to skin, bladder, liver and lung cancers. The arsenic in CCA-treated wood has been shown to leach out, ending up in the soil in our back yards and playgrounds, rubbing off onto our clothing, and wiping off onto our hands.

Today, I am re-introducing a bill to begin to remove this threat, the Arsenic-Treated Wood Prohibition Act. This bill will prohibit the use of CCA treated lumber once and for all. This legislation will protect children and families by mandating the phase out of arsenic in pressure treated lumber and will ensure that arsenic treated lumber is disposed of safely. Specifically, my bill will: phase-out the use of arsenic-treated wood in residential settings; require the disposal of arsenic-treated wood in lined landfills to prevent contamination of groundwater; require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finally complete its risk assessment regarding arsenic-treated wood; provide monetary assistance to schools and local communities to remove arsenic-treated wood from their playgrounds; and direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to complete its mitigation studies to determine the effect of sealants in preventing exposure to residues of CCA on treated wood. This bill would save lives and protect our environment.

Recent actions by the CPSC and preliminary findings released by the EPA make it even more important that we in Congress pass this legislation. Despite their own findings found that of every 1 million children exposed to the treated wood three times every week for five years, two to 100 of them might develop lung or bladder cancer later in life, the CPSC recently decided to deny a petition to ban the use of arsenic-treated wood in playground equipment and to recall existing playground structures using CCA-treated wood (HP-01-3). In their statements denying the petition, the CPSC Commissioners cited that a voluntary agreement between the EPA and CCA-treated wood manufacturer's to voluntarily phase-out the production of the product. The Commissioners reasoned that rulemaking on the subject would be both unnecessary and redundant. They further cited that the CPSC did not have the authority to initiate a recall before the risk assumptions made in the Commission's staff study could be verified.

On November 13, a draft probabilistic exposure assessment released by the EPA confirmed the CPSC's earlier findings. The study concluded that the cancer risk for children who repeatedly come in contact with commonly found playground equipment and decks made of arsenic-treated wood is considerably greater than EPA officials indicated last year. The agency's preliminary findings show that 90 percent of children repeatedly exposed to arsenic-treated wood face a greater than one-in-1 million risk of cancer. The risk associated with exposure to arsenic-treated wood appears to be up to 100 times greater in the warmer climates of southern States than in the general population since children tend to

spend more time playing outdoors. This risk passes the EPA's historic threshold of concern about the effects of toxic chemicals.

In light of these facts, I believe that we must take immediate action. I believe that a voluntary phase-out of this potentially harmful product is not adequate. Initiating a ban on CCA-treated wood would greatly increase public awareness of the dangers that existing arsenic-treated wood presents. By failing to ban CCA-treated wood, we are ignoring the responsibility to protect and promote the best interests of consumers. I strongly believe that a legislative mandate permanently banning its use and providing for its safe removal is critical to ensuring the safety of children and their families.

The effect of arsenic in our environment is undeniable: it kills. Arsenic-treated wood is a danger to the future health of America's families. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this very important effort to remove this threat.

TRIBUTE TO PFC DAMIEN L. HEIDELBERG

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Private First Class Damien Heidelberg who was killed in action Saturday, November 15, in Iraq. Along with seventeen other American soldiers, including another Mississippian, Specialist Jeremy DiGiovanni, Damien was killed in the collision of two Black Hawk helicopters.

Damien was a member of the First Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The little town of Shubuta, Mississippi was home to Damien. He was the ninth Mississippian to die in Iraq since the war began, and he served his country proudly and with honor.

PFC Heidelberg made the ultimate sacrifice defending our Nation and helped free millions of men, women, and children from the tyrannical grasp of an evil and brutal dictator. We Mississippians are so proud of the men and women we have serving in Iraq and appreciate their dedication to defending freedom and democracy.

I ask my fellow Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember Damien and his family during this difficult time. To his family, our prayers are with you, and we are grateful for Damien's courage and service to the United States of America.

THE LIMITS AND LIABILITY OF POWER: LESSONS OF IRAQ

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, the issue of our engagement in Iraq demands that we as a society probe the question of the limits of a superpower's power and the possible anomaly that there are severe liabilities to power, particularly for a superpower.

Does, for instance, overwhelming military might protect us from terrorism or, if used unwisely, increase our vulnerability to terrorism?

Likewise, does overwhelming economic power ensure loyalty or buy friendship even from the countries most indebted to the U.S.?

In other words, can military and economic might ever become a substitute for sensible and sensitive foreign policy?

And given the dilemma of Iraq, could it indeed be that the most important "multibillion" problem America faces is not deficits measured in dollars, fiscal or trade, but the antagonism of billions of people around the world who object to our current foreign policy?

Here, let me say that I strongly believe in the need for clarification of thought as it applies to policy, and anyone who wishes to review the reasoning I have applied to the Iraq issue, ranging from a floor explanation of a "no" vote on the Congressional resolution authorizing war last year to calls for internationalizing the civil governance in Iraq last month, to a vote in favor of generosity in reconstruction efforts last week, can find the explanatory statements on my Congressional web site: www.house.gov/leach.

What I would like to do today is summarize the dilemma we face and make the following points about where we might go from here:

(1) There are no certitudes. Anyone who was not conflicted on the original decision to approve intervention or who does not see a downside to all courses of action today is not approaching the problem with an open mind. America and the world are in a strategic pickle. In an era of anger, of divisions in the world based on economics, on color of skin, on ethnicity, on religious belief, on happenstance of family and place of birth; in a world made smaller by technological revolutions in communications and transportation, those who have causes—good or bad—have possibilities of being heard and felt around the globe that never existed before. Great leaders like Gandhi and Martin Luther King appealed to the higher angels of our nature and achieved revolutionary change with non-violence. Mendacious leaders like Hitler, Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden have sought to impose their wills on others through appeals to hate and reliance on increasingly wanton instruments of oppression.

As the world's only superpower, the U.S. has no choice but to display firmness of purpose and resolve in deterring inhumane breaches of order. Yet, firmness and resolve must be matched by compassionate understanding of the reasons people of the world lash out. We have the world's greatest armed forces. But these forces cannot successfully be deployed to counter international misconduct if we don't also seek to undercut the causes of such conduct.

Reviewing the causes of World War I, historians quickly concluded that there was not enough flexibility in the European alliance system and that this allowed a rather minor event, the assassination of an Austrian archduke, to precipitate a cataclysmic war. With this example in mind, political leaders in the 1930s erred on the side of irresolution, which led them to Munich and the partition of Czechoslovakia. Too much inflexibility caused one war; too little spine a greater one.

The problem today is not whether we should meet problems with firmness or compassion. We need both. The problem is determining when and how to respond with firmness, when and how to express compassion. As in all human conduct, the challenge is wisdom.

(2) We must listen as well as assert. Four decades ago the British author Lawrence Durrell wrote a series of novels called the *Alexandria Quartet*, in which he describes a set of events in Alexandria, Egypt, preceding World War II. An experiment in the relativity of human perception, each of the four books views the same events through the eyes of a different participant. While the events described are the same in each book, the stories as told by each of the participants are surprisingly different. The reader comes to the realization that a broad understanding about events that transpire can only be developed by synthesizing the singularly different perceptions of various protagonists.

To understand the Middle East today, we need to listen to everyone's story.

(3) To shape or deter an opponents' actions, we need to understand how they think. American policy makers, at their best, reason in a pragmatic, future-oriented manner. In much of the rest of the world, on the other hand, people reason by historical analogy. Events dating centuries back, especially umbrages, dominate thinking about today. People in the Middle East, like the Balkans, are oriented to the past and are driven by ideas of honor of a different shape and emphasis than those we derive from American culture.

(4) No country can go it alone for long and expect to be respected as an international leader. Doctrines of American exceptionalism—the precept that we should not be bound by legal or procedural norms that bind others—which are now fashionable in certain Washington ideological circles have led to intervention in Iraq without full UN sanction. Ironically, prior to 9/11 these same notions led to rejection of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and of upgraded verification provisions for the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention—agreements that would have stood in the way of WMD production in Iraq and provided a legal basis for possible armed intervention if violations occurred. The world is crying out for leadership in restraining weapons development. We are not providing it because Washington policy makers prefer that restraint on others not apply to ourselves.

(5) When Washington policy makers speak on foreign policy they must understand that their audience is more than one party's political base. While Saddam Hussein is widely perceived to be the worst sort of tyrant, many people around the world view us as bullies for attacking a sovereign country without prior armed provocation. That is why it is so critical that a case for intervention should be based on concern for the well-being of others as well as the U.S. national interest.

For foreign policy to be effective, it must be clearly articulated and convincing in those parts of the world most affected by it.

(6) We must rededicate ourselves to building up an intelligence capacity that better understands the Middle East and the Islamic world and is less susceptible to being politicized. Our inability to understand Islamic culture resulted in the greatest intelligence failure of our era. It is, however, not the sole intelligence failure. In one of the greatest judgmental errors of our time we appear to have attempted to combat the ideological posturing of others by slanting our own intelligence. Based on what is known today, policy makers not only erred in assessing Saddam

Hussein's WMD capacities, but put too much faith in a narrow cadre of ideologues who suggested the U.S. would be welcomed as a liberating rather than conquering or, worse yet, colonizing force in Iraq. Estimates of the costs of war, of the ramifications of involvement, of the expected reaction of the population and of the likelihood of foreign support were dead wrong.

(7) It is the responsibility of public officials to ensure that no American soldier is deployed as a defenseless magnet for terrorist attack—or in such a way as to incite foreign radicals to commit terrorist acts in America itself.

American soldiers have been trained to withstand the heat of battle in defense of America and American values. For two and a quarter centuries no country has been more effectively or more courageously served by a citizen soldiery than the United States. In Iraq, our armed forces could not have performed more professionally or valiantly than in the initial engagement. But the difference between service in combat and service in occupation of a foreign land, especially an Islamic society, is profound. In Iraq, which is fast becoming for us much like Algeria was for the French in the 1950s, our men and women in uniform are increasingly facing hit-and-run terrorist assaults, which are much more difficult to defend against than traditional military confrontations.

The challenge of policy makers is to recognize that there is a distinction between three endeavors: warfare, reconstruction and occupation. Our armed forces are trained to prevail in the first; they can be helpful in the second; but in the Islamic world no outside power is ever going to be well received as an occupying force. Hence, strategies that emphasize the first two endeavors and don't lead to long-term reliance on the third should be the goal of U.S. policy makers.

(8) Responses to terrorism often lead to escalating action/reaction cycles. When our forces become subject to terrorist assaults and the perpetrators disappear into their neighborhoods, we, like Israel, will inevitably be tempted to retaliate in ways that may intensify rather than restrain future violence.

Calls will be made not only to use air power in urban areas but to double or triple troop deployments, perhaps without adequate assessment of what such troops will be assigned to do. In conventional warfare, the case for overwhelming superiority (sometimes referred to as the Powell Doctrine) is compelling. In a terrorist setting, as in modernist design, less can often be more. There may be cases where deploying a large force to combat terrorism is appropriate. There may also be cases—and I believe Iraq is one—where additional soldiers simply become additional targets, and a different mix of strategies is both preferable and more effective.

(9) To defend against terrorism, especially when it is fueled by an explosive mixture of religious and nationalist sentiments, requires frank acknowledgment of the nature and depth of the problem.

For months, the administration has suggested the problem in Iraq is limited to 5,000 dissidents. This is a 5-digit miscalculation. At least half the Muslim world—over 500,000,000 people—are outraged by the U. S. government's attitudes and action. Long simmering resentment of American policies in Muslim countries like Indonesia has in recent months metastasized into hatred. And in Europe, in-

cluding what the defense secretary called the "new Europe," as well as in South and East Asia, respect for American policy is in steep decline.

In the Vietnam War we gave a great deal of attention to the notion of "winning the hearts and minds" of the people. We didn't succeed in convincing the Vietnamese or world opinion of our good intentions despite the horrendous tactics of the Vietcong and the Communist North. Today, Americans must understand that in the battle for the minds of men, particularly in the Moslem world, we are doing less well than even in the most difficult days of the Vietnam War. In this context, we would be well-advised to remember America's original revolutionary commitment to a decent respect for the opinions of mankind.

(10) While, for the time being, security in Iraq must remain the responsibility of U.S. military commanders in the field, we would be wise to put an international face on civil governance in the country and ask Secretary General Kofi Annan to immediately appoint a top civilian administrator to whom Ambassador Bremer and his staff would report.

Transfer of interim civil authority to the UN would provide greater legitimacy to the formation of a new Iraqi government and encourage other countries to help with economic reconstruction and security requirements. We should also work to transfer, as soon as practicable, responsibility for internal security to troops of other nations or the Iraqis themselves. Transferring the police function to others is a way to build up Iraq's own postwar internal security infrastructure and make evident that the U.S. does not desire long term control.

(11) We should also move forthwith to transfer more political control to the Iraqi Governing Council and press for immediate elections and constitution writing. Some argue that stability is more likely to be achieved with a long U.S. occupation. I believe the reverse is true. The longer we are in Iraq, the greater the instability there and the greater the likelihood that terrorism will spread to other countries, including the United States.

(12) America cannot cut and run politically, economically or militarily, but we would be wise to announce a timetable for troop withdrawal, by the end of next year at the latest. Some experts in and out of government believe that American troops should stay in and control Iraq at least as long as we did in Japan and Germany after World War II. Such a time table (a minimum of 5 years) is out of sync with the times and the mood in the Islamic world.

The world is more impatient today and Muslims in particular are more history sensitive than ever before. While we assume the Iraqi populace should accept the American presence because of our good will, the Muslim world sees our forces as a compounding of grievances dating back to the crusades and, more recently, to American support of Israel. The imagery AlJazeera projects of Baghdad is that of another West Bank. In this context, American commitments to "slog on" interminably play into the hands of extremists. All extremists have to do is continue blowing up a vehicle or two every day, thereby eliciting a military reaction that we might view as reasonable but that the Islamic world is likely to see as heavy-handed, angering the populace and emboldening further dissent.

The longer we stay, the greater the opportunity for al Qaeda and radical Baath party supporters to claim that the war is continuing and that they are prevailing. To prevent this and to keep control of events we would be wise to announce a withdrawal timetable that we, not they, control. Setting such a timetable has the effect of asserting that the war itself is over and we prevailed, and that Iraqis cannot dither in establishing a legitimate, elected government.

A drawn out occupation plays into the hand of radicals. It gives them a rallying cry to keep up resistance in Iraq and expand terrorist assaults around the world. It gives them the chance to suggest that America is bent on continuing the crusades and, when we eventually withdraw, the prospect of claiming that they won the war. On the other hand, if we set a firm schedule for drawing down our troops, we define the war as being over in its 3rd week, not in its 6th year. An announced timetable can later be modified to allow, for instance, a small force to remain briefly in northern Iraq to maintain sovereign cohesion. Timetables can also be abbreviated. But the point is that they underscore our reluctance to become an imperial power and, perhaps more importantly, our determination to control our own destiny.

(13) It is critical to the security of our troops, as well as Iraqi security, that we create an Iraqi police force as soon as possible. Responsibility for domestic security is an internal not external matter. We can't be their policemen and if we persist in trying, we will make it harder for stability to be established and maintained.

Students of international politics have for the past generation questioned the capacity and moral authority of any country to be policeman for the world. But little academic attention was devoted to the challenge of being policeman within a country after the conclusion of a conflict. We have little experience with such a responsibility. In Japan, MacArthur relied on indigenous Japanese police; in Germany, we quickly reconstituted a German constabulary at most local levels.

Common sense would indicate that trying to police a country the size of France with soldiers unfamiliar with the language and culture of the society, untrained in the art of policing, and unwelcome and resented in critical cities and towns must be a nearly impossible task. Hence the need to expedite the training of an indigenous Iraqi police force.

(14) We should announce that we have no intention of establishing permanent military bases in Iraq. Some Washington policy makers want such bases but they would be a political burden for any new government in Baghdad and a constant struggle for the U.S. to defend. Defense of American bases in Iraq from terrorism in the 21st century is likely to be far more difficult than the challenge we foresaw of maintaining U.S. sovereignty over the Panama Canal in the 20th century. The reason the Department of Defense concluded in the Carter administration that it was wise to transfer control over the Panama Canal to Panamanians was the estimation that the Canal could be defended against traditional aggression but not sabotage or acts of terrorism. It seemed wiser to respect nationalist sentiment and provide for a gradual transfer of the canal to local control than to insist on quasi-colonial assertions of power.

There are many reasons why Europeans are so smugly opposed to our policy in Iraq. One is historical experience with colonialism. The French were chased out of Algeria, the Russians, and earlier the British, out of Afghanistan. U.S. intervention in Iraq is seen in Europe as not too dissimilar to the British and French effort to re-establish control over the Suez Canal in 1956. It is noteworthy that the Islamic world deeply appreciated President Eisenhower's refusal to back the British and French intervention in Egypt. Europeans now think that the shoe is on the other foot. We appear insensitive to history.

(15) Credit will remain the dominant economic issue until Iraq's foreign debt is reduced or canceled. Neither significant private nor large scale public credit will be made available to Iraqis until the burden of old debt is lifted. Accordingly, we should press vigorously for Saddam-era debt—which went largely to build palaces for Saddam's family and to buy weapons of aggression—to be written off. We should also press to establish community-centered banks and credit unions where micro credit can be offered. Oil wealth has its advantages only if revenues are used for the benefit of society rather than political insiders. Increasing petroleum production is not enough. Oil is not a labor intensive industry. Jobs matter, and Iraq needs bankers and small business entrepreneurs far more than oil barons. We have no choice except to help rebuild Iraq's oil infrastructure, but we must make clear that we have no intention of controlling Iraq's oil reserves. The natural resources of Iraq must be treated as the patrimony of the Iraqi people.

(16) Economic assistance to Iraq should be front-loaded and generous. War has been a constant of history, but the concept of reconstruction is relatively new. The 20th century gave us two vastly different models. At the end of World War I, the victors imposed retributive terms on Germany, which so angered German society that it turned to fascism. World War II was the result.

The allies took a different approach at the end of World War II. Generosity was the watchword. The Marshall Plan was adopted to rebuild Europe and Gen. MacArthur directed the reform and modernization of Japan. Model democracies emerged. The world was made more secure. The economic plan for Iraq should be two-pronged: debt forgiveness coupled with institution building. A better world is more likely to emerge if the American agenda places its emphasis on construction rather than destruction.

Here a note about the other reconstruction model in American history is relevant. With his call for malice toward none, Lincoln's second inaugural address set the most conciliatory tone in the history of war. His successor once removed, U.S. Grant, proved to be a more proficient soldier than President and countenanced carpet bagging conflicts of interest. Our government today would be well advised to recognize that neither history nor the American public approves of war or post-war profiteering. Great care has to be taken to ensure transparency and integrity in government contracts and common sense would indicate that the more Iraqis are involved in rebuilding their own society, the more lasting such efforts are likely to be.

(17) Terrorism affects world economics as well as politics. Markets depend on confidence

and nothing undercuts confidence more than anarchist acts. Policies designed to deter terrorism can be counter-productive. International disapproval of our actions may jeopardize our economy and diminish the credibility of our political leadership in the world. Increased terrorism could well have the dual effect of precipitating new U.S. military engagements and, ironically, strengthening isolationist sentiment—which, in turn could degenerate into a disastrous spiral of protectionism.

(18) The measure of success in reconstruction is not the sum of accomplishments. In the Vietnam War the Pentagon gave progress reports that came to be symbolized by its body counts. One of the most liberal critics of that war, I.F. Stone, once commented that he accepted the validity of the body counts but thought that they did not reveal the big picture. It would be as if, Stone suggested, he were to be walking down the street and bump into a man running out of a bank waving a gun and carrying a satchel full of money, and were to ask the man, "What are you doing?" If the man responded, "I'm waiting for a car," the man would be telling the truth but not revealing the big picture.

Good things are being accomplished in Iraq, particularly in the North where an American general has won a measure of popularity through progressive stabilization initiatives. Yet terrorism cannot credibly be contained in the arms-infested Iraqi environment. American civilians as well as armed services personnel who have been posted to Iraq deserve to be commended for their commitment and sacrifices, but prudence suggests that brevity of service is preferable to a long standing presence. Otherwise, in a world where terrorism is a growth industry even extraordinary sacrifice and significant accomplishments could be for naught.

(19) We must respect Iraqi culture and work to ensure that the art and artifacts of this cradle of civilization are preserved for the Iraqi people. There are few umbrages more long lasting than cultural theft. Cultural looting must be stopped and the market for stolen antiquities squelched. For our part we should ensure that Iraqi cultural sites are protected and that our laws are upgraded. Any stolen antiquities brought to America must be returned.

(20) The war in Iraq should not cause us to forget Afghanistan. While the center of our military attention may at the moment be Baghdad, we must remember that no Iraqi was involved in hijacking the planes that struck the World Trade Center and Pentagon on 9/11. Few countries are more distant physically or culturally from the United States than Afghanistan, yet it is there where the plotting for that terrorist act began. The Taliban have been removed and a new, more tolerant government has been established, but the world community has not fulfilled its commitments to raise that country out of poverty and warlordism. The U.S. cannot continue to be complacent about economic and social development in that country, where foreigners have never been welcome. Failure of the Karzai government and a return of the Taliban would be a major setback in the battle with terrorism.

(21) Lastly, and most importantly, U.S. policy makers should never lose sight of the fact that events in Israel and Iraq are intertwined and that no challenge is more important for regional and global security than resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian dilemma.

Extraordinarily, administration after administration in Washington seems to pay only intermittent attention to this issue. There should be no higher priority in our foreign policy than a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Attention in Washington should be riveted at all times on this singular issue. The current status quo is good neither for Israel nor for the Palestinians. Now, for the first time lack of progress in establishing a mutually acceptable *modus vivendi* between the parties may be even

more damaging to countries not directly involved in the conflict. The need for U.S. leadership in pressing for peace has never been more urgent. It would be a tragedy if, focussed on making war in one part of the Middle East, we neglected to promote peace in another.

In conclusion, the world is noting what we are saying and what we are doing. Many are not convinced by our words; many are appalled by our actions. Yet nothing would be worse for the world than for us to fail. We

must not. The key at this point is to recognize the limits as well as magnitude of our power and emphasize the most uplifting aspects of our heritage: democracy, opportunity, freedom of thought and worship. Differences we must respect; intolerance we must reject. But America does better as a mediator and multi-party peace maker than as a unilateral interventionist. This is the great lesson of the past year.